

HOME NEWS

Judge adjourns trial of soldiers as one is 'in state of hysteria'

The trial at Belfast Crown Court of two soldiers facing murder charges was halted yesterday because one of them was too ill to appear in court. Staff Sergeant Stanley Hathaway, aged 36, had completely broken down and was in a state of hysteria, Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, his counsel, said.

After a delay of 90 minutes Mr Justice MacDermott ordered the trial to be adjourned until this morning.

Mr Ferguson said Sergeant Hathaway had been examined by his psychiatrist and one on behalf of the Crown. He added: "It has been agreed between the two medical experts that he is not, at this moment, fit to continue with his trial. It is hoped and anticipated that he will be in a position to continue the trial tomorrow morning."

Sergeant Hathaway and Sergeant John Byrne, aged 33, a former member of The Argyll

MPs refuse to promote abortion law reform

By Frances Gibb

The campaign for a reform of the Abortion Act, 1967, is virtually at an end in this parliamentary session because none of the MPs who have drawn high places in the ballot for private member's Bills is prepared to promote amending legislation.

Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Conservative MP for Hove, who was first place, does not now intend to introduce an "upper time limit" Bill to reduce the statutory time for terminating a pregnancy from 28 to 22 weeks. Instead he will introduce a Bill to curb indecent window displays.

Mr Donald Stewart, Scottish Nationalist MP for the Western Isles, who supports reform of the abortion law and has drawn second place is instead bringing in a Gaelic (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill to promote the speaking of Gaelic.

MPs say that one reason why they are not prepared to bring in an abortion Bill is the strength of opposition in the House, which would be likely to ensure any Bill the same fate as that suffered last year by the Bill promoted by Mr John Corrie, Conservative MP for Ayrshire, North and Bute.

That Bill was finally lost through clumsy handling and lack of Parliamentary time after extensive debates and numerous amendments had whittled it down to a compromise measure, lowering the upper statutory time limit for terminations from 28 to 24 weeks.

Another limited attempt at lowering the upper time limit, sponsored by Mr David Alton, Liberal MP for Liverpool, Edge Hill, petered out after its sponsor failed to vote "Aye" in a Commons voice vote.

Another reason for MPs' unwillingness is that bodies such as the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (Spuc) is switching the focus of its attention from a change in the law to ensuring its proper implementation, possibly through the courts.

Mr Sainsbury said: "They are now pressing for implementation of the Infant Life (Preservation) Act, 1929, under which it is an offence to destroy a child capable of being born alive. That could be taken to be a foetus younger than 22 weeks, and therefore an upper limit could be a disadvantage."

There was "fanatical" opposition to change to the present Act. "It is clear that any Bill, however limited its objectives, would still take up tremendous time in the House and no other private member's Bill would get debated."

Mr Stewart said he had studied certain possible amendments to check, but felt he would be unable to get them through with the present composition of the House. "I do not believe a reform will be possible until there is a change in the composition of the House."

In brief

Mr Nott tours west Belfast

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, was briefed in Belfast yesterday by Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Lawson, the GOC and other senior officers, including Brigadier Anthony Crowfoot, the Belfast commander.

He toured west Belfast in a normal looking but armoured car and fended off questions of defence policy on the ground that he was too new in the job.

Store asks Christmas shoppers to pay again

Debenhams store in Southampton is asking everyone who paid for goods in the Christmas period by credit card or cheque to pay again because £50,000 of goods were stolen in an armed robbery.

Fire deaths rise

The number of deaths from fires in the United Kingdom in 1979 was 1,096, a rise of 16 per cent and the highest figure since records of fires attended by local authority brigades were started in 1947.

Sale shoppers warned

The police warned shoppers at sales in London stores yesterday to look out for pickpockets.

On Saturday the first day of tomorrow, the police warned that they were arrested accused of pickpocketing.

Equity fee talks

Pay talks between the BBC and Equity, the actors' union, are to be resumed in London tomorrow. The union has threatened to take industrial action if the BBC does not improve its offer of an 8 per cent increase in fees.

Overt help for disabled

Steve Overt, the Olympic gold medalist, yesterday helped to launch a guide book listing places with easy access for the disabled at a ceremony in Eastbourne.

Solicitor on 21 charges

Mr Brian Rowe, a solicitor, aged 49, of New Road, Haslemere, Surrey, pleaded not guilty at St Albans Crown Court yesterday to 21 charges of false accounting. The trial continues today.

Lord Denning ill

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, aged 81, was taken ill with a slight fever yesterday and was unable to preside in the Court of Appeal. He spent the day at home.

Lancia cuts prices

Lancia, the Italian car company, is to reduce prices of most models sold in Britain by an average of 5.9 per cent from today.

BL guilty of race bias in job forms

By Lucy Hodges

An industrial tribunal has found British Leyland guilty of indirect racial discrimination because it insisted that people applying for labouring jobs filled in application forms in English.

The case, which was supported by the Commission for Racial Equality, is the first of indirect racial discrimination, a tribunal. The commission said yesterday that it was pleased about the decision because it believed many employers imposed an indirect language requirement that kept Indians and Pakistanis out of manual jobs.

BL Cars Ltd has undertaken to amend the application form for hourly paid employees. In future it will be possible for others to complete the form for applicants who have difficulties with English.

When the case came before a Leeds industrial tribunal last month BL Cars pleaded guilty to indirect racial discrimination but said it had been unintentional. The company had at first denied discrimination.

Mr Kuttan Menon, the legal officer, argued that BL broke the Race Relations Act, 1976, which says that a person discriminates against another if he applies a requirement which on the surface is not discriminatory but which affects one racial group disproportionately.

The industrial tribunal's unanimous decision, released yesterday, upheld that point. The judgment said that BL had agreed to amend its application forms and to tell all staff that they were not intended as a test of literacy in English.

Conservationists fight scheme to fill in dock

From John Charriss

The eight-acre Albert Dock, regarded by many as a monument to Liverpool's more golden past, must be filled in and converted into an "Albert Square" if between 5,000 and 7,000 new jobs are to be created, it was said at a Liverpool public inquiry yesterday.

It is an attempt to convert the 18th-century dock, in the heart of the Merseyside waterfront, unused since 1965 and now in an advanced stage of dereliction, into a trade, industry and export centre.

The main point at issue during the inquiry, which may last a fortnight, will be whether the Albert Dock and the adjoining 61-acre, Salthouse Dock will still contain water.

Many of the objectors, who include the Merseyside Civic Society, the Georgian Group, Save Britain's Heritage, the Victorian Society and Friends of the Maritime Museum, maintain that to fill in the docks would be a desecration.

Mr Peter Boydell, QC, representing Gerald Zisman Associates, proposers of the conversion scheme, maintained that water entered the dock only at certain states of the tide and that for much of the time it was filled with marine ooze.

The Zisman scheme has been approved by Liverpool City Council and planning permission has been given. The inquiry is being held because the whole site is listed Grade I, as being of historical importance.



The long sweep of the warehouses in the eight-acre Albert Dock complex in Liverpool, which have been described in a local history as "sublime".

Inquiries bring confrontation on Merseyside and a strange alliance in the South-east

Conservationists fight scheme to fill in dock

From John Charriss

The eight-acre Albert Dock, regarded by many as a monument to Liverpool's more golden past, must be filled in and converted into an "Albert Square" if between 5,000 and 7,000 new jobs are to be created, it was said at a Liverpool public inquiry yesterday.

It is an attempt to convert the 18th-century dock, in the heart of the Merseyside waterfront, unused since 1965 and now in an advanced stage of dereliction, into a trade, industry and export centre.

The main point at issue during the inquiry, which may last a fortnight, will be whether the Albert Dock and the adjoining 61-acre, Salthouse Dock will still contain water.

Many of the objectors, who include the Merseyside Civic Society, the Georgian Group, Save Britain's Heritage, the Victorian Society and Friends of the Maritime Museum, maintain that to fill in the docks would be a desecration.

Mr Peter Boydell, QC, representing Gerald Zisman Associates, proposers of the conversion scheme, maintained that water entered the dock only at certain states of the tide and that for much of the time it was filled with marine ooze.

The Zisman scheme has been approved by Liverpool City Council and planning permission has been given. The inquiry is being held because the whole site is listed Grade I, as being of historical importance.

Opponent of motorways backs ministry on abandoning extension of M23

By Craig Seton

The Department of Transport and an unlikely ally, Mr John Tyme, the veteran opponent of motorways, will be on the same side for the first time over the next three weeks at a public inquiry where they will defend the abandonment of the proposed northern extension of the M23.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, announced in May that the project, extending the motorway from Hookey, in Surrey, to Molesey, in Surrey, to Molesey, in south London, was to be scrapped to bring an end to years of uncertainty and blight.

The route was approved in 1968 and the department now wants to sell more than 400 homes and commercial properties it compulsorily purchased for the scheme.

The public inquiry opened yesterday at Redhill, Surrey. It is the first of its kind, and it is into the abandonment of the project itself, but into the department's proposal to revoke its statutory authority to provide a motorway on that route.

More than seventy objectors, many who want the motorway built to relieve congestion on the A23, are to put their case at the inquiry. They include several local councils, the British Airports Authority, which is concerned about access to Gatwick airport, both motorway organizations and the Road Haulage Association.

The decision to scrap the eight-mile extension, which was to have cost £100m, was taken by the last Labour government after the abandonment of the inner London ringway proposal. The department now contends that a motorway would be inappropriate because of reduced traffic forecasts and the environmental difficulties it would cause, including the loss of hundreds of homes.

It maintains that uncertainty and blight will persist until it revokes its statutory authority to build on the route. Mr Michael Howard, representing the department, said yesterday that it was intended to withdraw the motorway scheme from the roads programme.

Mr Tyme said he would speak at the inquiry against the objectors.

Air Marshal Sir Michael Giddings, the inquiry inspector, said he would rule today on the form of the inquiry.

Conservationists fight scheme to fill in dock

From John Charriss

The eight-acre Albert Dock, regarded by many as a monument to Liverpool's more golden past, must be filled in and converted into an "Albert Square" if between 5,000 and 7,000 new jobs are to be created, it was said at a Liverpool public inquiry yesterday.

It is an attempt to convert the 18th-century dock, in the heart of the Merseyside waterfront, unused since 1965 and now in an advanced stage of dereliction, into a trade, industry and export centre.

The main point at issue during the inquiry, which may last a fortnight, will be whether the Albert Dock and the adjoining 61-acre, Salthouse Dock will still contain water.

Many of the objectors, who include the Merseyside Civic Society, the Georgian Group, Save Britain's Heritage, the Victorian Society and Friends of the Maritime Museum, maintain that to fill in the docks would be a desecration.

Mr Peter Boydell, QC, representing Gerald Zisman Associates, proposers of the conversion scheme, maintained that water entered the dock only at certain states of the tide and that for much of the time it was filled with marine ooze.

The Zisman scheme has been approved by Liverpool City Council and planning permission has been given. The inquiry is being held because the whole site is listed Grade I, as being of historical importance.

Opponent of motorways backs ministry on abandoning extension of M23

By Craig Seton

The Department of Transport and an unlikely ally, Mr John Tyme, the veteran opponent of motorways, will be on the same side for the first time over the next three weeks at a public inquiry where they will defend the abandonment of the proposed northern extension of the M23.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, announced in May that the project, extending the motorway from Hookey, in Surrey, to Molesey, in Surrey, to Molesey, in south London, was to be scrapped to bring an end to years of uncertainty and blight.

The route was approved in 1968 and the department now wants to sell more than 400 homes and commercial properties it compulsorily purchased for the scheme.

The public inquiry opened yesterday at Redhill, Surrey. It is the first of its kind, and it is into the abandonment of the project itself, but into the department's proposal to revoke its statutory authority to provide a motorway on that route.

More than seventy objectors, many who want the motorway built to relieve congestion on the A23, are to put their case at the inquiry. They include several local councils, the British Airports Authority, which is concerned about access to Gatwick airport, both motorway organizations and the Road Haulage Association.

The decision to scrap the eight-mile extension, which was to have cost £100m, was taken by the last Labour government after the abandonment of the inner London ringway proposal. The department now contends that a motorway would be inappropriate because of reduced traffic forecasts and the environmental difficulties it would cause, including the loss of hundreds of homes.

It maintains that uncertainty and blight will persist until it revokes its statutory authority to build on the route. Mr Michael Howard, representing the department, said yesterday that it was intended to withdraw the motorway scheme from the roads programme.

Mr Tyme said he would speak at the inquiry against the objectors.

Air Marshal Sir Michael Giddings, the inquiry inspector, said he would rule today on the form of the inquiry.

Store asks Christmas shoppers to pay again

Debenhams store in Southampton is asking everyone who paid for goods in the Christmas period by credit card or cheque to pay again because £50,000 of goods were stolen in an armed robbery.

The police warned shoppers at sales in London stores yesterday to look out for pickpockets.

On Saturday the first day of tomorrow, the police warned that they were arrested accused of pickpocketing.

Equity fee talks

Pay talks between the BBC and Equity, the actors' union, are to be resumed in London tomorrow. The union has threatened to take industrial action if the BBC does not improve its offer of an 8 per cent increase in fees.

Overt help for disabled

Steve Overt, the Olympic gold medalist, yesterday helped to launch a guide book listing places with easy access for the disabled at a ceremony in Eastbourne.

Solicitor on 21 charges

Mr Brian Rowe, a solicitor, aged 49, of New Road, Haslemere, Surrey, pleaded not guilty at St Albans Crown Court yesterday to 21 charges of false accounting. The trial continues today.

Lord Denning ill

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, aged 81, was taken ill with a slight fever yesterday and was unable to preside in the Court of Appeal. He spent the day at home.

Lancia cuts prices

Lancia, the Italian car company, is to reduce prices of most models sold in Britain by an average of 5.9 per cent from today.

Editor refuses to meet staff on withholding of 'Now!'

By Robin Young

Mr Anthony Shrimley, the editor-in-chief of *Now!* magazine, yesterday, declined to meet the journalists who are concerned about "undue proprietorial interference" in editorial matters.

About 30 of the staff requested the meeting after this week's issue was withheld from sale in Europe because an article about President Giscard d'Estaing offended Sir James Goldsmith, the magazine's proprietor.

Mr Shrimley, who returned from holiday yesterday, posted a notice in the newsroom saying that he felt the journalists' action was precipitate.

European Parliament move: Sir James could be investigated by a committee of the European Parliament if a British Labour motion tabled yesterday is carried (Our European Political Editor writes).

Under a procedural rule Mr Richard Balfie, Labour MEP for London, South, Inner, claims that reports of Sir James's banning sales of *Now!* in France because of the anti-Giscard article suggest a breach of Community rules on the free movement of goods.

Bill aims to halt indecent displays

By George Clark

Displays of sex magazines and publications bearing indecent illustrations on the covers in newsagents' and confectioners' shops would be made illegal in certain circumstances under a private member's Bill to be introduced in the Commons today by Mr Timothy Sainsbury, the Conservative MP for Hove.

His Indecent Displays (Control) Bill aims to protect people, especially young children, from displays of what is considered "hard porn", he said yesterday.

If the Bill becomes law shops displaying pornography must have adequate warning notices "indicating that the material on show is indecent, and not allow people under 18 to enter while the display is in progress."

For the purposes of the Bill, "any matter is indecent if the whole or any displayed part of it is indecent."

A newsagent could keep "indecent" material in a separate room, with a notice saying that people under 18 cannot enter.

The Bill states that any displayed matter visible from any public place shall be deemed to be publicly displayed.

That would relate to indecent photographs or illustrations in cinemas or cinema clubs outside or in the foyer visible from the street, and illustrations outside other establishments, such as saunas, "if they were indecent."

"Public place" is defined as any place to which the public have or are permitted to have access (whether on payment or otherwise), while that matter is displayed, except a place where people are admitted only on payment, this payment including payment for the display, or "a shop or any part of a shop to which the public can gain access only by passing beyond an adequate warning notice."

Offences will carry a fine of up to £1,000 and/or imprisonment up to six months on summary conviction, and up to two years on indictment, and/or a fine.

The Bill has all-party support and comes up for second reading on January 30.

Bill aims to halt indecent displays

By George Clark

Displays of sex magazines and publications bearing indecent illustrations on the covers in newsagents' and confectioners' shops would be made illegal in certain circumstances under a private member's Bill to be introduced in the Commons today by Mr Timothy Sainsbury, the Conservative MP for Hove.

His Indecent Displays (Control) Bill aims to protect people, especially young children, from displays of what is considered "hard porn", he said yesterday.

If the Bill becomes law shops displaying pornography must have adequate warning notices "indicating that the material on show is indecent, and not allow people under 18 to enter while the display is in progress."

For the purposes of the Bill, "any matter is indecent if the whole or any displayed part of it is indecent."

A newsagent could keep "indecent" material in a separate room, with a notice saying that people under 18 cannot enter.

The Bill states that any displayed matter visible from any public place shall be deemed to be publicly displayed.

That would relate to indecent photographs or illustrations in cinemas or cinema clubs outside or in the foyer visible from the street, and illustrations outside other establishments, such as saunas, "if they were indecent."

"Public place" is defined as any place to which the public have or are permitted to have access (whether on payment or otherwise), while that matter is displayed, except a place where people are admitted only on payment, this payment including payment for the display, or "a shop or any part of a shop to which the public can gain access only by passing beyond an adequate warning notice."

Offences will carry a fine of up to £1,000 and/or imprisonment up to six months on summary conviction, and up to two years on indictment, and/or a fine.

The Bill has all-party support and comes up for second reading on January 30.

1,000 patients in trials of drug that was banned

By Nicholas Timmins

About 1,000 patients around the world have taken part in clinical trials of the anti-asthma drug, Proxipromil, before the decision to withdraw it on safety grounds, announced on Monday, was made, Fisons, the pharmaceutical manufacturers, said yesterday.

The decision to withdraw the drug, due for full marketing late this year, came early in the year, as a result of long-term toxicity tests in animals, Dr Derek Quanton, director of research and development for Fisons, said. The risk to patients, however, was considered to be very low.

Some patients in the trials, which have been run in the United Kingdom, Australia, Hongkong, Singapore, Canada and several European countries, had been on the drug for a year, he said, but most had taken it for a shorter time. Dr Quanton said such periods would be unlikely to present much risk. "My concern was more with patients who would have four, five or six years of treatment."

He refused to describe the precise nature of the difficulty. The Fisons share price continued to tumble yesterday. A further £3m was wiped off the group's market value as the price slipped 22p to a new low.

High research risks, page 17

Music publishers rescue brass band centest

By Cyril Bainbridge

Because of doubts about the future of the National Brass Band Championships, Boosey and Hawkes, the musical instrument manufacturers and publishers, have agreed to finance the brass band contest at the Albert Hall, London, on October 3.

The company said yesterday that it was moved by the need to maintain a British musical institution that was, she acknowledged, leader in the field.

Mr W. Martin, a director of Boosey and Hawkes, said that his company had paid out £25,000 in prize money for last year's championships. Since 1977 the contest has been organized by Band Promotions.

Two strains identified in winter flu outbreak

By a Staff Reporter

Britain is suffering a moderate outbreak of influenza, with two different strains about, the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre (CDSC) said yesterday. It is not yet clear how bad this year's outbreak is likely to be.

Laboratory isolations have risen sharply in the past fortnight, but figures collected by the Royal College of General Practitioners from a sample of family doctors show, if anything, a slight decline in the number of people affected.

The centre said yesterday that both strains are variants of A-type influenza, which cause a more severe illness than B strains.

One is a variant of "red flu", which was prevalent between 1947 and 1957, and is mainly affecting those aged under 24, with a number of large outbreaks, particularly in boarding schools. The other is a version of the Hongkong strain that first appeared in the late 1960s which is affecting people of all ages.

Figures from the Royal College of General Practitioners showed that 51 people per 100,000 suffered influenza or similar illnesses in the week to January 6, suggesting that about 55,000 people were affected that week.

Two strains identified in winter flu outbreak

By a Staff Reporter

Britain is suffering a moderate outbreak of influenza, with two different strains about, the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre (CDSC) said yesterday. It is not yet clear how bad this year's outbreak is likely to be.

Laboratory isolations have risen sharply in the past fortnight, but figures collected by the Royal College of General Practitioners from a sample of family doctors show, if anything, a slight decline in the number of people affected.

The centre said yesterday that both strains are variants of A-type influenza, which cause a more severe illness than B strains.

One is a variant of "red flu", which was prevalent between 1947 and 1957, and is mainly affecting those aged under 24, with a number of large outbreaks, particularly in boarding schools. The other is a version of the Hongkong strain that first appeared in the late 1960s which is affecting people of all ages.

Figures from the Royal College of General Practitioners showed that 51 people per 100,000 suffered influenza or similar illnesses in the week to January 6, suggesting that about 55,000 people were affected that week.

EEC rights campaign by Liberals

By a Staff Reporter

A five-year campaign aimed at making the EEC subject to the European Convention on Human Rights is outlined today in a policy paper which is expected to be adopted by the Liberal Party.

The document goes before the party's standing committee on February 12 and if adopted will be the party's first statement of policy on human rights for a decade and will greatly widen its present policy, that the convention should be made part of British law. It is in line with other European Liberal parties' policies.

Among its chief aims are that rights such as conscientious objection and freedom from the death penalty, now outside the convention, be brought within its scope.

It urges that the convention be extended to include rights

EEC rights campaign by Liberals

By a Staff Reporter

A five-year campaign aimed at making the EEC subject to the European Convention on Human Rights is outlined today in a policy paper which is expected to be adopted by the Liberal Party.

The document goes before the party's standing committee on February 12 and if adopted will be the party's first statement of policy on human rights for a decade and will greatly widen its present policy, that the convention should be made part of British law. It is in line with other European Liberal parties' policies.

Among its chief aims are that rights such as conscientious objection and freedom from the death penalty, now outside the convention, be brought within its scope.

It urges that the convention be extended to include rights

Jury chosen on fourth day of handless body case

From Arthur Osman

On the fourth working day of a hearing at Lancaster Castle which is expected to last at least until April a jury of seven men and five women was empanelled yesterday.

Within five minutes they were sent home until today, when Mr Michael Maguire, QC, will open the case for the Crown against ten men and one woman. Five men are charged with the murder of Mr Christopher Johnston, whose handless body was found in a Lancashire quarry, and all 11 are accused of contravening the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971.

The paper urges as its main aim the accession by the EEC to the Convention on Human Rights. For that to be effective, the EEC would have to accept the right of individual petition to Strasbourg.

That would enable acts of the Community to be challenged before the European court.

It also proposes that certain rights in the convention, such as that guaranteeing the liberty and security of the person (article five) and that guaranteeing the right to a fair trial (article six), give the same protection as that in the United Nations human rights covenants.

NHS accounting threatened by overtime ban

By a Staff Reporter

Regional health authority computer staff began an overtime ban and other measures last night that could seriously disrupt accounting procedures in the National Health Service.

The 1,800 staff, members of the National and Local Government Officers Association and of the National Union of Public Employees, use computers that handle NHS salaries, finance and statistics, and in some cases patient records.

The two unions are to meet on Friday to consider extending the dispute.

The dispute is over the differences in pay between NHS computer staff and the private sector, where the unions claim salaries are between £500 and £1,000 higher.

DOVER-BOULOGNE

DOVER-DUNKIRK

FOLKESTONE-CALAIS

FOLKESTONE-BOULOGNE

5-50m

Four Choices
Lots more cheaper fares on these routes.

Small Cars, Big Bargains
Any car up to 4.0m + 2 adults, Fri. a.m. sailing, peak season, £45 single.

One Price Caravans
All under 5.50m from £7.00 single any day.

5-Day Excursion
Any length car + 2 adults, £30 return up to April 9th.

Family Fares
Medium size car + 2 adults, 2 children, Sat. a.m. sailings, peak season, £64 single.

Travel Agent

Sealink's Continental

Sealink introduce cheaper fares across the Channel.

On the four routes shown above, Sealink have lots more bargain fares for 1981.

It doesn't matter what day you go or what time you go.

It doesn't matter how long your car is or how many people you have in it.

What does matter is that Sealink can take you across the Channel on these routes cheaper than any other ferry company in practically every case.

Our other popular French routes

Sealink Lots more.

HOME NEWS



Photograph by Harry Kerr

Hospital demonstration: Mr Conway, deputy head porter at Sick Ormond Street Hospital for Great Children, in London, yesterday with some of the 200 demonstrators who were protesting against his dismissal. The hospital board of governors started hearing his appeal yesterday (Nicholas Timmins writes).

Ancillary staff at the hospital had agreed to a half-day strike to join the protest demanding the reinstatement of Mr Conway, the branch chairman of the National Union of Public Employees. The management said, however, that only 41 of 280 porters, domestic and catering staff had joined the action. Employees from other hospitals joined

the demonstration. Mr Conway was dismissed before Christmas after the management accused him of neglect of essential duties, unauthorized absence from work and failure to behave with commitment to management "of which he is a part". Mr Conway denies the charges.

Colleges slow to complete science PhDs may lose student awards

By Diana Geddes

University science departments may have their "quota" places for PhD student awards reduced or abolished if they fail to achieve an acceptable standard for PhD completion rates, Sir Geoffrey Allen, chairman of the Science Research Council, said yesterday.

In an interview with *The Times*, Sir Geoffrey said the council, which gives some 2,350 new awards, averaging £3,500, to PhD students every year, was anxious to improve completion rates, not least because the council felt the writing of the thesis was an important part of research training.

A recent survey by the council showed that about 60 per cent of council-funded students complete their PhDs within four years (awards are normally given for a maximum of three years). Sir Geoffrey said yesterday that he would like to see 90 per cent of students complete their PhDs within four years.

The only way to do that, he said, was to ask each department for the average completion rate of their council-funded students over, for example, a three-year period. New research students would then be allocated to that department only if its standard was acceptable.

Sir Geoffrey's proposals are already being discussed by a working party of the Government's Advisory Board for the Research Councils, chaired by Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge Uni-

LIST OF COMPLETIONS

Order of institutions according to brevity in the completion rate of their council-funded PhD students. Only institutions with an average intake of 20 or more council-funded students have been included. Polytechnics have relatively few such students and are classified together.

1. Birmingham; 2. King's College, London; 3. Cambridge; 4. East Anglia; 5. Bristol; 6.

Surrey; 7. Leicester; 8. Edinburgh; 9. Sheffield; 10. Southampton; 11. Durham; 12. Oxford; 13. Strathclyde; 14. Glasgow; 15. Nottingham; 16. Bangor; 17. Manchester; 18. Cardiff; 19. University College, London; 20. Warwick; 21. Swansea; 22. UMIST; 23. Liverpool; 24. Hull; 25. York; 26. Kent; 27. Aberystwyth; 28. Leeds; 29. Lancaster; 30. Newcastle; 31. Imperial, London; 32. Exeter; 33. Polytechnics; 34. Sussex; 35. Bradford.

The council has submitted to the working party a list of institutions ranked in order of the PhD completion rates of council-funded students in their science and engineering departments. Birmingham's completion rate at the top of the list is twice as good as Bradford's at the bottom.

The working party describes the discrepancy between institutions as "startling", and says there is no obvious explanation. It has to be assumed that it represents a difference in the ethos of the institutions, it says.

"If this is so, then to reform what is wrong one needs to twist the arms of the institutions rather than those of the students", it adds. It recommends that each department's completion rates should be published as a guide to prospective students.

The council has submitted to the working party a list of institutions ranked in order of the PhD completion rates of council-funded students in their science and engineering departments. Birmingham's completion rate at the top of the list is twice as good as Bradford's at the bottom.

The working party describes the discrepancy between institutions as "startling", and says there is no obvious explanation. It has to be assumed that it represents a difference in the ethos of the institutions, it says.

"If this is so, then to reform what is wrong one needs to twist the arms of the institutions rather than those of the students", it adds. It recommends that each department's completion rates should be published as a guide to prospective students.

A brisk pace for places in London marathon

By Michael Coleman

To the delight of the cameramen, the first man briskly up the steps of County Hall, Westminster, yesterday morning to deliver his entry for the Gillette London Marathon race was a civil servant, neatly suited and with brief case.

It was 8.30 am and it meant that Mr Michael Savage, aged 48, from Sanderstead, Surrey, who works for the Department of the Environment, had won "The race before the race" to earn the right to toe the line on the Greenwich Meridian on March 29. The race is over 26 miles long and ends at Buckingham Palace.

Seventeen thousand entry forms had been sent out the day before, but only the first 5,500 in the British Isles to return them will get race permits (a further 1,500 are held abroad). So far, competitive people like Mr Savage, the race was on as soon as the envelopes dropped through their letter boxes in the first delivery yesterday.

Mr Savage said: "I did not intend trying a marathon until I was 50, but the Gillette London Marathon was too good to miss." He last raced in 1958, when he won the Malaysia-Singapore cross-country championships, but he jogs up to 40 miles a week.

Four hopeful entrants followed him in a steady stream over Waterloo and Westminster bridges, by bicycle, taxi or bus. If not the running gear, it was their obligatory 9in by 4in brown envelopes that gave them an edge.

"I wanted to be quite sure I was handing it over to the people who mattered." Another with an Australian accent, wanted help with his computer-based entry form.

His phrase on it stating that "failure on your part to complete all sections will result in your entry being rejected" was turning his legs to jelly. "How can I fill in the box requesting my London borough code when I do not live in a London borough?" he asked.

Four stuffed plastic bags were in a corner. They contained applications which arrived on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week, all too late.

Miss Suzy Mahseredjian, who is 27, and a law student from California, was acquitted on a charge of illegal possession of explosives.

She was found guilty of extorting 10,000 Swiss francs (£2,380) from Armenians living in Geneva to finance the terrorist activities of the Secret Armenian Liberation Army.

She appeared without her companion, Mr Alexi Yenikoumoussian, a Lebanese, aged 25. The two were arrested on October 3 when a bomb exploded in their hotel bedroom.

Mr Yenikoumoussian, who lost an eye and a hand in the explosion, will be tried later.

Paris explosion: The Secret Armenian Liberation Army today claimed responsibility for an explosion in the car of Mr Ahmet Erbeyli, Financial Counsellor at the Turkish Embassy, while he was driving in a Paris street. He escaped injury.—AP.

UPI. The three members of the British rock group The Stranglers were given suspended sentences in their absence by a court in Nice today for inciting an audience in the city's university last June to smash everything up.

Mr Sean-Jacques Burnel, aged 27, the group's leader, was given a one-year suspended sentence and the other two, Mr Brian Duffy, aged 38, and Mr Hugh Cornwell, aged 28, were given six-month suspended sentences. They were also ordered to pay costs of 17,800 francs (£1,780). They all come from London.

At the previous hearing in December, at which all three were present, their lawyer told the court that they had already paid a university 80,000 francs for the damage.

Abortion law upheld
Rome, Jan 13.—Italy's highest court has ruled as constitutional a 1978 law allowing for abortion on demand for women aged 18 and older and abortion with the parents' consent for younger women.

WEST EUROPE

Predictable Paris anger greets Thorn threat to sue France for withholding payment

From Ian Murray

Paris, Jan 13.—France has reacted with predictable anger to the threat yesterday by Mr Gaston Thorn, the new President of the European Commission, to prosecute any member-state which failed to make its full contribution to the 1980 supplementary budget.

Like West Germany and Belgium, France has claimed that the supplementary EEC budget—which would make more money available for non-agricultural spending—was only passed by an irregular procedural device. Unlike the other two partners, however, France has made it clear that it is not prepared to pay up to avoid a political crisis.

Mr Thorn's warning, given in his inaugural address in Strasbourg yesterday, has not altered the thinking of the French Government.

Mr Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, emerged after talks on the matter with President Giscard d'Estaing at the Elysée last night to say he did not see why the French Government should modify its position. Mr Thorn can say what he likes. The French Prime Minister

puts forward the position of the French Government.

However strongly Paris feels about the budget, it can nevertheless be of little comfort to Mr Barre that only the French Communist Party Members of the European Parliament voted in support of his position. Even the Gaullists—in open defiance of their party leadership—supported the supplementary budget.

According to their parliamentary leader, M. Christian de la Motte, "this is a judicial problem which they do not understand in Paris".

The Gaullists believe, like Mr Thorn and Mme Simone Veil, the president of the European Parliament, that legally the supplementary budget must stand. Mme Veil, whose candidature was strongly supported by Mr Barre when she stood for election to the European Parliament, has been strongly criticized by the French Government for allowing the budget to be carried.

M. Barre's dilemma is summed up in the Gaullist daily newspaper—on one of the rare recent

occasions when he has won support from that quarter.

"The French Government has an unshakable judicial position, but a much weaker political position", *La Lettre de la Nation* said.

The only important interest in this affair is political, for it is less a case of saving a few millions than of refusing to enter into a grilling involvement leading as Raymond Barre says, to a sort of financial tyranny by the European Assembly.

In other words the French Administration is gravely worried that the supplementary budget is only the thin end of a wedge which will give the European Parliament more and more power over Community finance.

At any time that is a possibility that any government here would be certain to oppose strongly. But with the presidential elections looming, it is doubly important for President Giscard d'Estaing to be seen taking a firm stand against what is being hailed as an attack on national independence.

Judge thinks papers can save him

From John Earle

Rome, Jan 13

A letter was found today from Judge Giovanni D'Urso, who was kidnapped a month ago by the Red Brigades, in which he asked for his gratitude to be expressed to his wife for her attempts to save his life.

The letter, regarded as authentic, was picked up in a square in central Rome after a telephone call was made to the Socialist Party newspaper *Avanti!* a few minutes before a deadline set by the judge's captors for his killing expired.

Addressed to Signor Ugo Intini, editor of the paper, the letter thanked him for the attitude of *Avanti!*, which alone of the major dailies has been willing to publish the proclamation of the Red Brigades members in maximum security prisons.

Dr D'Urso said in his letter that it was well known that "the trial to which I have been subjected has been conducted with my sentence to death". This sentence, however, could be avoided if the most important newspapers published the communiques issued by prisoners in Trani and Palmi jails.

The judge appealed to the papers to do so. "The sense of humanity should prevail," he said.

He began his letter by saying he had heard of an appeal made by his daughter, Lorenza, on television last night. I ended: "Lastly, a prayer: I hope I should not see my wife again. May you, Mr Editor, tell her of my gratitude for what she has done, unable (as I am) to count on anything but the strength of her love for me and our daughters."

At Palmi prison, in Calabria, magistrates today questioned 11 extremists who have been charged with complicity in the kidnapping. Another 65 had already been charged at Trani prison in Puglia, where a revolt was suppressed at the end of last month.

The Rome public prosecutor has taken this action on grounds that they had identified themselves with the kidnapping. The judge is likely to be charged with complicity in his murder.

From questioning the prisoners, it is hoped to obtain information that would lead to the hide-out where Dr D'Urso, senior official in the Justice Ministry's prison department, is being held—presumably in a Rome suburb.

The authorities are also searching for Signor Giovanni Senzani, a criminologist and alleged Red Brigades envoy, who gave a long interview to the weekly magazine *L'Espresso*. Interpol has been informed of the search in case Signo Senzani, who speaks English, is abroad.

New grant plan may 'devastate' education

By Our Education Correspondent

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee yesterday demanded an urgent meeting with Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to discuss the "devastating effects" on education of the proposed arrangements for distributing government money to local authorities.

Mrs Nicole Harrison, chairman of the association's education committee, said the committee had expressed deep concern at its meeting yesterday over the inevitable damage to the education service which would be brought about by the rate support grant settlement.

The committee said the damage would be caused not only by the severity of the cuts and cash limits, but also by the decisions made on how the grant would be distributed.

The whole distribution of the grant was based on the basis of a formula drawn up at the last moment, she said. It was geared to move the grant away from areas of great educational and social disadvantage to those far less disadvantaged.

Many metropolitan education authorities would be faced with making savage cuts in their education service or imposing very large increases on the rates.

"We get the feeling that Mr Carlisle has little knowledge of how the grant system works or of the devastating effects of the decisions to which he was an assenting party, and fear he has even less interest in the results of grant decisions on inner-city schools and children."

Another authority studies abolition of sixth forms

By Our Education Correspondent

Another local authority is considering abolishing its school sixth forms. Croydon has issued a consultative paper on falling pupil numbers, drawn up by a council subcommittee, which proposes a system of 11-16 schools for the borough, with provision for 16-19-year-olds being made in a combination of tertiary and sixth-form colleges.

At present the borough has a complicated system of second and sixth-form colleges for ages 11-14, 14-18 and 11-16, with the possibility of transfer for pupils from the 11-16 schools either into a further

education college or into a 14-18 school.

However, the secondary population is due to fall by 40 per cent over the next decade, and it is clear that many schools will become too small to provide a suitable curriculum for pupils.

Wiltshire is to hold a series of public meetings over the next four weeks to explain its proposals to abolish school sixth forms in the north-east of the county and to replace them with a sixth-form college.

Birmingham is also considering abolishing all its school sixth forms, and Manchester has just decided to go ahead.

Boy spent up to £100 a day on space machine

From Our Correspondent

Volverhampton

A schoolboy, aged 13, stole hundreds of pounds to satisfy his obsession, a space invaders machine, magistrates at a juvenile court at Dudley, West Midlands, said yesterday.

"It was the only thing he stole for", Inspector John Day, for the prosecution, said.

The court was told that the boy even stole money collected for a relative's funeral, and he squandered up to £100 a day shooting down the little green space ships. Mr Day said: "It seems that all of the money outstanding has been spent on the space invaders machine."

The boy admitted stealing a total of £321, mainly from his family, and he was put into care.

Council's finance director faces internal inquiry

By Christopher Warman

Local Government Correspondent

Mr J. E. Halligan, director of finance at Lambeth Council in London, has been suspended on full pay pending an internal inquiry.

The suspension, ordered by Mr Frank Dixon-Ward, chief executive, took effect shortly after the council met on Monday to debate, and approve, a 20p supplementary rate to make up an £11m deficit this financial year.

It is understood the suspension came after an argument between the two men over a report prepared by Mr Halligan.

A statement issued by the council yesterday said Mr Halligan had been temporarily relieved of his duties. "The reason concerns a matter of corporate management", it said.

"There is no suggestion whatsoever of impropriety in the management of the council's finances. This will not be an issue at the inquiry which is to be held. Nor is the matter related directly to the financial problems which face Lambeth and other authorities."

Mr Halligan, aged 60, has been with the council since 1955. His report was on the financial assumptions for next year's council spending and mentioned the possibility of a rate increase of nearly 50 per cent.

It also contained an assumption of rent increases, and it appears that a lack of liaison between the council's corporate management team led to the dispute.

The inquiry is to take place as soon as practicable, a council official said.

6,000 demand ban on march

From Tim Jones

Cardiff

More than 6,000 people have signed a petition calling on Mr John Woodcock, the Chief Constable of South Wales, to ban a march which the Provisional Sinn Féin plans to hold in Cardiff to commemorate Bloody Sunday.

The petition has been organized by Mr Nolan Smith, a South Glamorgan county councillor, who said yesterday that he feared violence if the IRA supporters were allowed to march through the city on Sunday week, to commemorate the day in 1972 when 13 demonstrators in Londonderry were killed by troops.

Since handing in the petition Mr Smith has received a further 1,000 signatures.

The event has been recalled each year by Sinn Féin with annual marches through British cities.

Mr Nolan said: "We fear that it could cause tension and even violence in the community where none existed before."

Sinn Féin says it expects at least 1,000 supporters to come to Cardiff for the march. The National Front has decided to hold a counter-demonstration, and the Anti-Nazi League says it will demonstrate against the Front.

Those moves have increased the pressure on Mr Woodcock to ban the Sinn Féin march on public order grounds. A spokesman for the chief constable said that he was still considering the matter.

Prison doctors oppose hunger strike feeding

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Jan 13

The trial of 17 Corsican autonomists is due to open before the Court of State Security tomorrow despite the fact that six of them are now said to be too ill to move after 63 days of hunger strike.

Three are on drip feeds, against their wishes and despite the view of the chief doctor for the prison of Fresnes, where they are held, that these drips are ethically wrong.

Two of those being kept alive by the drips have already signed legal proceedings against the doctors who have been treating them. All six are seeking to take their case before the International Court of The Hague, claiming they have wrongly not been allowed bail pending their trial.

Whatever the eventual outcome of the case, the long hunger strike has started a long polemic in medical and legal circles over the ethics of force-feeding prisoners. These are brought to a head in an article in this week's medical magazine *Tonnes*.

Dr Eugene Forget, the chief doctor at Fresnes, says in the article that he had refused to give drips to any prisoners on hunger strike without their agreement. He contested the intervention on the Corsican hunger strikers, saying that there should be "respect for the moral liberty of prisoners".

He said he and his team would have nothing to do with giving drips to the Corsicans. The policy he had adopted had

been consistent throughout the past year, during which time there had been 100 on hunger strike at the prison.

In another interview in the magazine, M. Jean Solange Troillet, Medical Inspector General of Prisons, stated: "Nobody has the right to put an end to his days. Comparing the hunger strike to suicide she said that 'despite the ferocious determination of the Corsican prisoners, we will not hesitate to have recourse to forceful means'."

M. Alain Peyrefitte, the Minister of Justice, made it quite clear last week that he did not intend to give in to the demands of the hunger strikers. They were, he said, carrying out a blackmail against justice itself.

In a letter to *Le Monde* today five of the defence lawyers for the trial, say that the hunger strike is the only weapon available to the prisoners, and that it is not, the letter says, a question of blackmail, but "the expression of courage and dignity, to their extreme limits, despite the medical constraints which are never voluntarily accepted and which are sometimes a real torture."

The six hunger strikers, two other prisoners and nine others, who were released on bail after being charged with kidnapping and being members of the Corsican Liberation Army, were after an attempt to capture two men whom the autonomists believed were responsible for carrying out a terror bombing campaign against them.

15-year expulsion by Swiss for American

Geneva, Jan 13.—A Swiss

court today sentenced a Syrian-American woman of Armenian origin to 15 years' expulsion and an 18-month suspended prison sentence for extortion.

Miss Suzy Mahseredjian, who is 27, and a law student from California, was acquitted on a charge of illegal possession of explosives.

She was found guilty of extorting 10,000 Swiss francs (£2,380) from Armenians living in Geneva to finance the terrorist activities of the Secret Armenian Liberation Army.

She appeared without her companion, Mr Alexi Yenikoumoussian, a Lebanese, aged 25. The two were arrested on October 3 when a bomb exploded in their hotel bedroom.

Mr Yenikoumoussian, who lost an eye and a hand in the explosion, will be tried later.

Paris explosion: The Secret Armenian Liberation Army today claimed responsibility for an explosion in the car of Mr Ahmet Erbeyli, Financial Counsellor at the Turkish Embassy, while he was driving in a Paris street. He escaped injury.—AP.

UPI. The three members of the British rock group The Stranglers were given suspended sentences in their absence by a court in Nice today for inciting an audience in the city's university last June to smash everything up.

Mr Sean-Jacques Burnel, aged 27, the group's leader, was given a one-year suspended sentence and the other two, Mr Brian Duffy, aged 38, and Mr Hugh Cornwell, aged 28, were given six-month suspended sentences. They were also ordered to pay costs of 17,800 francs (£1,780). They all come from London.

At the previous hearing in December, at which all three were present, their lawyer told the court that they had already paid a university 80,000 francs for the damage.

Abortion law upheld
Rome, Jan 13.—Italy's highest court has ruled as constitutional a 1978 law allowing for abortion on demand for women aged 18 and older and abortion with the parents' consent for younger women.

Supreme Court rejects appeal in Menten case

From Our Correspondent

Amsterdam, Jan 13

The Supreme Court of The Netherlands today rejected the final appeal by Pieter Menten, the 81-year-old Dutch millionaire and art collector, against his conviction last July of war crimes. It upheld the sentence imposed by a Rotterdam court of 10 years in prison and a fine of 100,000 guilders (about £20,000).

A 10-year sentence on "an old sick man" was perfectly acceptable because of the gravity of the crime, the Supreme Court held. It did not consider the punishment to be contrary to the European Human Rights Convention.

The Rotterdam court had rightly concluded, the higher court found, that while it was impossible to ascertain the exact role played by Pieter Menten in the mass execution of between 20 and 30 Polish nationals mainly Jews in 1941, his guilt had been sufficiently established.

The Rotterdam court had rightly concluded, the higher court found, that while it was impossible to ascertain the exact role played by Pieter Menten in the mass execution of between 20 and 30 Polish nationals mainly Jews in 1941, his guilt had been sufficiently established.

The involvement of the Dutch-British company in supplying oil to South Africa seems to show the big effect that the Dutch oil boycott could have if it were to be implemented.

It has been assumed the Dutch oil exports to South Africa were of only marginal importance covering about 1 per cent of its needs.

According to the report, however, a total of 42 tanker companies, including the 25 Shell tankers connected with the Netherlands, had unloaded in South Africa during the stated period. This the report alleges, represents about 60 per cent of South Africa's needs.

Last June the Dutch Government survived a motion of censure by two votes in the Lower House after its refusal to impose a unilateral oil embargo against South Africa. The Government promised to investigate the possibilities of applying the oil embargo to the shipping companies in cooperation with the other two Benelux countries and the Scandinavian nations.

The involvement of the Dutch-British company in supplying oil to South Africa seems to show the big effect that the Dutch oil boycott could have if it were to be implemented.

It has been assumed the Dutch oil exports to South Africa were of only marginal importance covering about 1 per cent of its needs.

According to the report, however, a total of 42 tanker companies, including the 25 Shell tankers connected with the Netherlands, had unloaded in South Africa during the stated period. This the report alleges, represents about 60 per cent of South Africa's needs.

Last June the Dutch Government survived a motion of censure by two votes in the Lower House after its refusal to impose a unilateral oil embargo against South Africa. The Government promised to investigate the possibilities of applying the oil embargo to the shipping companies in cooperation with the other two Benelux countries and the Scandinavian nations.

The involvement of the Dutch-British company in supplying oil to South Africa seems to show the big effect that the Dutch oil boycott could have if it were to be implemented.

Shell role in supplying oil to South Africa revealed

From Robert Schull

Amsterdam, Jan 13

A Dutch report today revealed the importance of the role played by Shell tankers in supplying South Africa with crude oil.

According to the report, 26 tankers either belonging to Shell or under charter to it unloaded at South African oil terminals between January, 1979, and March, 1980.

The report, titled "Oil Supplies to South Africa, the role of tankers connected with The Netherlands and The Netherlands Antilles", was compiled by the Shipping Research Bureau in Amsterdam.

The bureau, which was set up by the Dutch Committee on Southern Africa—the main anti-apartheid lobby in the Netherlands, said that most of the oil was loaded in The Netherlands Antilles, where the oil is then transported to trans-shipment facilities.

The involvement of the Dutch-British company in supplying oil to South Africa seems to show the big effect that the Dutch oil boycott could have if it were to be implemented.

It has been assumed the Dutch oil exports to South Africa were of only marginal importance covering about 1 per cent of its needs.

According to the report, however, a total of 42 tanker companies, including the 25 Shell tankers connected with the Netherlands, had unloaded in South Africa during the stated period. This the report alleges, represents about 60 per cent of South Africa's needs.

Last June the Dutch Government survived a motion of censure by two votes in the Lower House after its refusal to impose a unilateral oil embargo against South Africa. The Government promised to investigate the possibilities of applying the oil embargo to the shipping companies in cooperation with the other two Benelux countries and the Scandinavian nations.

OVERSEAS

Firm line taken by Polish leaders as selective strikes near

From Desha Trevisan
Warsaw, Jan 13

The threat of selective two-hour warning strikes looms for tomorrow while the Polish Government continues to warn the nation about the effect of labour unrest on the economy. In a hardening of the Government's position, several top leaders have over the past few days accused the Solidarity union militants of deliberately trying to increase tension without any real ground for it.

The party central committee is to have a plenary session soon, possibly before the end of the week.

It is still however not clear as to whether the two-hour strike will be on a national scale in selected factories or concentrated around Rzeszow in the south of Poland.

There is much confusion as the local union leaders claim to have Solidarity support, and the union representatives in Gdansk while supporting their claim are obviously more reluctant to back them up on a demonstration on a national scale.

The trend in southern Poland is that local grievances are presented as of national concern and local union leaders claim to have Solidarity support. Last night for the second time the Government decided to use force in order to clear a public building, this time in Ustrzyki Dolne where some 60 miners had gathered.

In Nowy Sącz, demonstrators left the occupied premises the previous night, when the police used tear gas.

Solidarity's national committee which has its headquarters in Gdansk, decided to support

the farmers' demands but in a way that would cause the minimum loss to production.

Mr Jozef Pinkowski, the Prime Minister, yesterday appealed to coalminers to work on Saturdays because of "dramatic consequences" for the country if coal production continued to fall.

The trouble is, however, that the Government must itself by an agreement in Jastrzebie, the centre of coalmining, last September to concede a five-day week to the miners. Obviously it is unable to carry out the agreement without loss in production.

Mr Pinkowski said that coal production would drop by 43 million tons if the five-day week were introduced.

Walesa mission: Mr Lech Walesa, the Polish trade union leader, arrived in Rome today on his first visit abroad at the head of a Solidarity delegation of 14 for a seven-day stay in Italy (John Earle writes from Rome).

Applauded and nearly mobbed by photographers and passengers at Fiumicino airport, Mr Walesa found waiting for him his step-father, Mr Stanislaw Walesa, who had arrived from the United States.

The delegation was welcomed by representatives of the Vatican led by Mgr Giovanni Coppola, the Secretary of State, as well as by the leaders of the three Italian trade union confederations. For the first two days the delegation is the guest of the Church, and for the rest of the Italian trade unions.

The visit got off to an undiplomatic start when in an interview with an Italian newspaper before leaving Poland Mr Walesa said "If it were not for the Pope, I would not have made my first trip abroad to Italy."

He told the Italian trade



Mr Lech Walesa accompanied by his step-father visiting St Peter's Basilica yesterday.

unionist leaders at the airport today: "I have come to visit the Pope. There are very important reasons for this visit."

To this Signor Luciano Lama, the Communist secretary general of the General Confederation of Italian Labour, replied that he understood this, but the unions also wanted to show their guests something of the reality of Italy.

The Italian trade union movement, including its Communist element, has strongly supported the growth of Solidarity, and sent a delegation to Warsaw at the time of the Gdansk demonstrations last August, although the Italians were not allowed by

the Polish Government to go to Gdansk.

In the afternoon Mr Walesa, accompanied by his wife and step-father and by other members of the delegation, visited St Peter's Basilica, and the crypt with the tombs of Popes.

After an audience with the Pope on Thursday morning, Mr Walesa will move from a pilgrims' hostel to a hotel for talks with the Italian trade union leadership. Friday will be devoted to meetings with different trade unions.

Anti-socialist forces: Anti-socialist forces are trying to turn the Solidarity trade unions into

a political opposition party, Mr Stanislaw Wronski, a member of the Polish party Central Committee said in an article published in *Pravda* today.

"The mighty Soviet Union is needed by Poland, as a strong socialist Poland (is needed) by the Soviet Union."

Although the article was said to be contributed by Mr Wronski, its views almost certainly reflected those of the Soviet leadership. —UPI

Labour MPs deny visit to Kabul was exploited

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Three Labour MPs who visited Afghanistan earlier this month denied yesterday that they had been exploited for propaganda purposes by the Afghan Government. They urged the British Government to "recognize" the regime, and said that from what they had seen in their five-day visit, the Afghan Government was in control of the country.

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, answering questions in the Commons, said that by going to Afghanistan the MPs had given "aid and comfort to the occupiers". Speaking on television last night Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said he thought the three had "made asses of themselves", but there was no need to rub it in.

Two of the MPs, Mr Alan Roberts (Bottle) and Mr Robert Litherland (Manchester, Central) who met officials at the Foreign Office yesterday to report on their impressions, said they had been free to travel where they wished and meet whom they wanted, though language difficulties prevented them from having much contact with the Afghan people. They said their visit had reinforced their view that socialism could not be carried through by the guerrillas and the Soviet Government to withdraw its troops immediately.

Mr Ronald Brown (Edinburgh, Leith), who did not join the Foreign Office mission, was more critical of official British policy than his colleagues, said he did not know if the Soviet troops had been invited into Afghanistan or had come in of their own accord. He said he was a member of the Afghan Government.

Mr Brown said many of the reports in the British and Western press about Afghanistan were false. President Babrak Karmal had told them, he said, that Soviet troops were a reserve, and would leave the country immediately after Afghanistan's neighbours respected its borders.

He said he had not visited the Foreign Office with his colleagues because he was not a member giving information to the Tories. Mr Roberts said the officials heard their views with great interest. They had also seen Mr Denis Healey, Labour spokesman on foreign affairs. The Foreign Office pointed out last night, however, that Britain no longer recognises governments, only states. The present position is that while diplomatic relations have not been broken, the British charge d'affaires in Kabul has no substantive dealings with the regime.

What the three MPs want, they made clear at a press conference at the Commons yesterday is "negotiations" with the regime in Kabul. They said that the Afghan leadership was ready to enter into talks with the United Nations on the frontiers question.

"Obviously sitting down and talking with them implies recognition," Mr Roberts said. Mr Karmal had spoken of "direct negotiations". Mr Roberts thought that the initiative could come from the United Nations, though the Afghan regime had little confidence in it.

Pakistan is reported to be pressing for talks under United Nations sponsorship, but it is still not clear whether the behind-the-scenes contacts at the United Nations are making progress.

Answering press questions, the three MPs strongly defended their right to see the situation for themselves in Afghanistan, and supported the aims of the present regime as being "moderate", compared with the Amin regime which had "just faith with the people".

The Soviet presence in Kabul and Jalalabad, the two main centres they visited, was minimal, and so far as they could judge control of the country was in Afghan hands. Mr Litherland said the airport there was a wide range of Soviet military aircraft.

Hugh Noyes writes: Mrs Thatcher in the Commons yesterday publicly condemned the visit of the three MPs. It was significant that there was no attempt by the Labour Front Bench to defend the visit. The Prime Minister said it was deplorable that MPs should give aid and comfort in this way to a regime that was kept in power by 80,000 to 90,000 Soviet troops.

She also commented at the use made of the visit by the Kabul Government. Mrs Thatcher reminded the Commons that the MPs concerned had been visiting an independent country occupied by Soviet troops. That occupation, she said, had been condemned by the whole of the Western world, as well as by the non-aligned world.

Defending the visit, Mr Roberts, one of the three who made the journey, asked Mrs Thatcher whether her words meant that he would never visit the Soviet Union. There were shouts of "yes" from the Conservative benches as Mr Roberts asked if the Prime Minister was implying that while three MPs went with closed minds.

Parliamentary report, page 8

Opposition in Nigeria is accused of subversion

From Karan Thapar
Lagos, Jan 13

It has been alleged that the main opposition party in Nigeria has plans to subvert the constitution and, if possible, overthrow the 15-month-old civilian Government. This was disclosed by a document reported to be "the full text of a secret document prepared by the United Party of Nigeria (UPN) aimed at destabilising the country politically", and published by the *Nigerian Herald* today.

Yesterday the paper published highlights of the alleged document. So far the UPN has not denied the authenticity of the document.

"Our ultimate aim must be to take Nigeria back to square one—abolition of the 1966-66 political and constitutional debacle that culminated in the civil war," the document states. "It is clear that the next civil war will be bloody, but if the blood of the civil war is shed to ensure the emergence of a just society, so be it."

No explanation is offered by the document, alleged to be marked "strictly confidential", as to how the UPN came to be in its possession. Whether the text is accurate and authentic must be in doubt, but some of the aims and procedures outlined in it do appear to coincide with what are widely believed to be the wishes of the opposition party.

Chief Awolowo, the UPN leader, was the closest loser in the 1979 Presidential election, although by a wide margin. He contested the verdict in court and lost. He has since refused to recognize Alhaji Shehu Shagari as President, and he has called on the president Chief Justice to resign, accusing him of bias and conspiracy.

Both the UPN-supporting papers—the *Daily Sketch* and the *Nigerian Tribune*—habitually refer to the "stolen presidency" and accuse the Government of corruption and conspiracy.

According to the document published by the newspaper, the UPN has determined "to cause confusion, foment discipline among other political parties thus ensuring the continuation of his circle of conspiring the new constitution unworkable".

In fulfillment of these aims, the document seeks to brief the foreign press, in particular the BBC Africa service, in the hope of securing maximum publicity.

However, the document is most particular about "not opposing any Bill affecting any of the services especially the Army".

The document states: "While all measures capable of arousing anger within the Armed Forces short of a coup must be drummed up, extreme care must be taken to ensure that they are not propelled to stage a coup."

"The worst civilian regime, as we have today, is better than any military administration."

Africans query legality of Chad merger

Lomé, Jan 13.—African leaders discussed a proposed merger to which President Goukouni Oueddei of Chad agreed during a visit to Tripoli last week.

The sources said the heads of state were likely to call in Tripoli for a conference of African nations, including Chad and Libya, similar to that in Lagos in 1979 which set up the present Chad transition government.

African leaders were generally agreed that President Goukouni was given a strictly temporary mandate to organize elections and demilitarize the capital of N'Djamena by this month, the sources said. —Reuters

Leading article, page 13

Russia sends messages into space

From Our Own Correspondent
Moscow, Jan 13

In about three months Soviet scientists will begin transmitting radio signals giving space in an attempt to make contact with any possible intelligent life on other galaxies.

Under the auspices of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Soviet astronomers have prepared a series of signals giving a "cosmic landscape" to show the position of the Earth in the solar system and how the system appears when seen from this or that star.

The addresses of these intergalactic messages will be sent to the nearest star, Alpha Centauri, located between 10 and 15 light years away.

Describing the experiment today in *Sovetskaya Kultura*, Dr Vsevolod Troitsky, chairman of the Academy's section dealing with the search for artificial cosmic signals, admitted that the likelihood of success was "very small". Nevertheless, he added, such experiments were necessary. By working out sensible methods already tried in the search for life, Soviet scientists hoped to improve the chances of making contact.

Dr Troitsky emphasized that extra-terrestrial civilizations were theoretically possible. He said that theory often preceded actual discovery, citing the example of pulsars which had only recently been found although physicists had predicted their existence many years ago.

Diver arrested trying to collect ransom

Sydney, Jan 13.—Police hunting a gang of extortionists who

bombarded the Woolworths store chain arrested a frogman today as he tried to collect a \$100,000 ransom of gold, diamonds and cash.

The 28-year-old diver later appeared in court to be charged with conspiracy with the divers and extortion demands. But police said the leader of the gang, known as "Benny", was still at large.

The gang bombed three Woolworths stores last month. Mr Benny said the diver was grabbed by detectives as he tried to collect the ransom which was in a cricket bag suspended in Sydney harbour from a ferry wharf.—Reuters

Russian quits embassy in Cairo and seeks asylum

From Our Correspondent
Cairo, Jan 13

A Soviet official working in the commercial section of the embassy here has defected to Egypt. The defection, which was made public today, came after the announcement at the weekend that another commercial attaché had been charged with spying and ordered to be deported.

It was not clear whether the cases were related, but Mr Kamel Hassan Aly, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, said the case of the attaché charged with spying would not strain relations further with Moscow, but should drive home to the Kremlin "that diplomats must adhere to diplomatic practice and work to promote bilateral relations".

But Moscow, almost surely, will not see the defection in the same light. The semi-official

Hostages legislation delayed in Tehran

Tehran, Jan 13.—Efforts to rush two Bills on the American embassy hostages through the Iranian Majlis (Parliament) were delayed today for at least 24 hours because of one man's absence.

Iranian constitutional law requires the presence in the Majlis of at least three-quarters of the 12-man Council of Guardians for urgent legislation. The delay was caused by the absence of a member of the Council, a dog body comprising six jurists and six clergymen.

Only eight were in Tehran, so the debate was postponed until tomorrow, when it was hoped that enough council members would be available, a council spokesman said.

The delay, described as accidental, was a setback to the Iranian Government's apparent wish to reach a deal with the United States over the 52 captives held in Tehran. Mr Carter leaves office on January 20.

The Majlis had been set to approve today the two Bills related to aspects of an American-Iranian accord on the hostages, which diplomatic sources say is at last within sight.

Majlis sources said there was

no political obstacle to approving the Bills, which are to nationalize the wealth of the late Shah and about 50 of his relatives, and to authorize the Government to allow third party arbitration in legal claims between Iran and the United States.

The Bills are a necessary legal preliminary for the Iranian Government to go ahead with an agreement to end the hostages 14-month captivity.

Diplomatic sources here say the basic outlines of an accord have been settled and should be announced before President Carter leaves office.

But even if a breakthrough is achieved by then, the hostages may not be freed until after the American inauguration. —Reuters and Agence France-Presse

Professor killed: Two days after being interrogated by Revolutionary Guards about his activities for the Bahai faith, Professor Manuchehr Bakim, a physician and an eminent member of the Faculty of Medicine, University, was shot dead in his office yesterday, Bahai sources in London reported.

Mr Qoboza steps down as editor of closed papers

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Jan 13

Mr Percy Qoboza has resigned as editor of the black newspapers *Post* and *Sunday Post*, which were recently closed by the Government because of non-publication for three months.

His resignation was sent from Washington to Mr Hal Miller, managing director of the Argus Company which owns the two black newspapers.

Mr Qoboza's telegram said that "recent Government actions on black press and banning of black journalists have forced me to tender my resignation". He apologized for not being able to discuss his resignation personally, but his lawyers had taken longer than he had expected and that he was "rushing off" to a conference in Sierra Leone. He left Johannesburg at the weekend after a period of sick leave.

Mr Qoboza came to prominence in 1978 when his former newspaper *World* was banned in the campaign against black consciousness organizations after the death in police detention of Mr Steve Biko, leader of

the Black Consciousness movement.

Mr Qoboza was detained for several months but on his release was offered the editorship of the Transvaal edition of the *Post* and *Sunday Post*, newspapers which had their main circulation in Natal.

One of his staff, including Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, one of his chief assistants, recently came under a Government banning order. Mr Sisulu is the leader of the Media Workers Association of South Africa, which believes that black journalists should promote black power rather than the ethic of objectivity, and which had called a strike of workers on black newspapers and blacks employed on white-owned newspapers.

Scathing attack on EEC move in Middle East

Continued from page 1

idea of a separate European initiative. "One ought to separate courtesy from substantive attitudes", he replied. He claimed that it was disconcerting for Israel to be told to separate Western peace initiative from each other in its own vocabulary, its own rhetoric and its own priorities. He added scathingly that Europe's stated desire to associate the PLO with the peace process had been announced only two weeks after the organization declared its desire to liquidate the Zionist entity.

"We believe that Europe is underestimating its potential role", Mr Eban said. "If it is to create a Palestinian outlook similar to the change which took place in Egyptian policy, the way to go about it is not to pretend that the change has occurred when it has not."

Earlier, Mr Eban had spoken of the different approach to the Middle East problem which would be adopted if Labour formed the next Israeli government. His remarks indicated that the future of the occupied West Bank is destined to become a key campaign issue.

The main innovation would come from the fact that Labour opposed the idea of permanent Israeli rule over the 1.2 million Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza, he explained. "We oppose it not only in the name of peace, but also on what Labour Party resolutions describe as 'moral and Jewish grounds'."

Mr Eban said that if Labour were returned to office it would attempt to open a dialogue with both the Jordanian Government and local Palestinians in an effort to begin negotiations about territorial compromise on Arab land.

Mr Eban stated that Labour would refuse to consider redrawing Jerusalem, or returning to Israel's pre-1967 boundaries. The party would not make any pledge to dismantle Jewish settlements.

Israelis detain six over Arab's murder

From Our Correspondent
Tel Aviv, Jan 13

Israeli police investigating last night's murder of Shaul Muhammad Abu Raba, a Bedu member of the Knesset, visited Yerka, a Druze village in Galilee. The son and a kinsman of a prominent, non-Jewish notable were detained.

Two others were reported arrested at a roadblock. They were unarmed but one man was said to have been dressed in an army uniform with an officer's insignia. The Israel radio said two other suspects were detained, one of them a Jew.

More serious is the question whether members of the armed forces have taken part in the bombings—about which few details have been published—or supplied explosives, otherwise very difficult to obtain.

Last year, 11 people died in a bomb explosion at Peking's main railway station. The police blamed a man who was unhappy in his work and had quarrelled with his girl friend. There was no evidence of a political motive.

There are, however, solid grounds to believe that many armed forces commanders are unhappy about the recent political trial, in which five former senior officers from chief of staff down were convicted of attempting to assassinate Mao in 1971. This has damaged the political prestige of the armed forces, as has the campaign since Mao's death to discredit many of his policies, for which he recruited in recent months, there have been reports of considerable difficulties in persuading young people to join up, in contrast with the previous state of affairs, in which a military career was regarded as highly desirable.

Several publications of the Communist Party have discussed the problems involved in making the troops understand the reasoning behind the new, anti-leftist policies laid down in Peking—especially those related to agriculture. Many members

of the armed forces have apparently objected to schemes to give the peasants greater material incentives, on the ground that these policies diverge too far from Mao's ideas.

The armed forces newspaper said last month: "Certain of our comrades fail to take a serious attitude towards party documents and ponder problems seriously, but are instead very interested in untruthful hearsay and street gossip, passing irresponsible judgment on things and people. They listen to and believe anything anyone says and even add their own contributions, thus spreading falsehood and creating confusion for themselves and others."

Another problem is the provision of jobs and homes for demobilized servicemen, and compensation for families in the rural areas for the labour taken away when a young man or woman is recruited in recent months, there have been reports of considerable difficulties in persuading young people to join up, in contrast with the previous state of affairs, in which a military career was regarded as highly desirable.

Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping, whose return to power

four years ago after he had been disgraced by Jiang Qing and her friends, was forced by the leading armed forces commanders, seems to have disappointed them. He has not earmarked large funds for the import of advanced arms and equipment, as had been widely forecast, and he has purged several top commanders for political reasons.

Mr Deng is also thought to have had sharp disagreements with the veteran Marshal Ye Jianying, especially over the posthumous deification of Mao and many of his policies—a cumulative process to which the party has now called a halt.

While no concrete evidence links the recent terror bombings with the friction between Mr Deng and the armed forces commanders, they will increase unease in the public mind about the security of his new team of civilian administrators and their ability to stand up to and suppress any manifestations of violent opposition.

It is thought that a death sentence on Jiang Qing could well provoke more violent protests, especially as much of her group's support rested in the militia or territorial army.

Chinese leftists suspected of terror bombings

From David Bonavia
Hongkong, Jan 13

Reports of terrorist bomb attacks in different parts of China may be linked to the delay in passing sentence on Jiang Qing, the widow of Mao Tse-tung and nine other defendants found guilty of offences amounting to treason by a special court in Peking.

The bombings have been reported by the official press in Shanghai and the north-eastern province of Liaoning—both formerly regarded as strongholds of the left-wing faction surrounding Jiang Qing and her associates in the erstwhile "Gang of Four".

At the trial, Jiang Qing made a spirited defence of her previous political activity, and there is understood to be controversy in leadership circles whether she should be sentenced to immediate execution, to execution suspended for two years to see whether she will "reform" herself, or to a long prison term.

Although Jiang Qing is very unpopular among the Chinese public, there are undoubtedly disgruntled leftists who in extreme cases could be expected to use acts of terrorism to demonstrate support for her.

More serious is the question whether members of the armed forces have taken part in the bombings—about which few details have been published—or supplied explosives, otherwise very difficult to obtain.

Last year, 11 people died in a bomb explosion at Peking's main railway station. The police blamed a man who was unhappy in his work and had quarrelled with his girl friend. There was no evidence of a political motive.

There are, however, solid grounds to believe that many armed forces commanders are unhappy about the recent political trial, in which five former senior officers from chief of staff down were convicted of attempting to assassinate Mao in 1971. This has damaged the political prestige of the armed forces, as has the campaign since Mao's death to discredit many of his policies, for which he recruited in recent months, there have been reports of considerable difficulties in persuading young people to join up, in contrast with the previous state of affairs, in which a military career was regarded as highly desirable.

Several publications of the Communist Party have discussed the problems involved in making the troops understand the reasoning behind the new, anti-leftist policies laid down in Peking—especially those related to agriculture. Many members

of the armed forces have apparently objected to schemes to give the peasants greater material incentives, on the ground that these policies diverge too far from Mao's ideas.

The armed forces newspaper said last month: "Certain of our comrades fail to take a serious attitude towards party documents and ponder problems seriously, but are instead very interested in untruthful hearsay and street gossip, passing irresponsible judgment on things and people. They listen to and believe anything anyone says and even add their own contributions, thus spreading falsehood and creating confusion for themselves and others."

Another problem is the provision of jobs and homes for demobilized servicemen, and compensation for families in the rural areas for the labour taken away when a young man or woman is recruited in recent months, there have been reports of considerable difficulties in persuading young people to join up, in contrast with the previous state of affairs, in which a military career was regarded as highly desirable.

Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping, whose return to power

four years ago after he had been disgraced by Jiang Qing and her friends, was forced by the leading armed forces commanders, seems to have disappointed them. He has not earmarked large funds for the import of advanced arms and equipment, as had been widely forecast, and he has purged several top commanders for political reasons.

Mr Deng is also thought to have had sharp disagreements with the veteran Marshal Ye Jianying, especially over the posthumous deification of Mao and many of his policies—a cumulative process to which the party has now called a halt.

While no concrete evidence links the recent terror bombings with the friction between Mr Deng and the armed forces commanders, they will increase unease in the public mind about the security of his new team of civilian administrators and their ability to stand up to and suppress any manifestations of violent opposition.

It is thought that a death sentence on Jiang Qing could well provoke more violent protests, especially as much of her group's support rested in the militia or territorial army.

Press is a real source of information after years of sterile polemics and abstruse political theory

Exciting intellectual era for China

The 21-year-old South Korean, ranked third by the World Boxing Council, has defended the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation title seven times in 16 months.

PARLIAMENT, January 13, 1981

Income tax decisions have not yet been taken

House of Commons
The Prime Minister is not worried about the fact that income tax decisions have not yet been taken, he said during question time.

Mr. Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Edinburgh, Lab), asked: Would the Prime Minister care to give some help about some matters for which she is responsible? Could she give us some guidance about the latest batch of Cabinet decisions and tell us whether the statement that there is to be no income tax in the Budget is a leak or whether it is due to the Chancellor anticipating his Budget statement or to a leak?

Mr. Thatcher (Barnet, Con): These are leaks about decisions which have not yet been taken. Mr. Foot: Will she tell us whether she would attach any significance at all to it?

I know that the word "leakage" is too delicate for her, but should she give us any indication whether there is any foundation for these matters which have been in the press?

Mr. Thatcher: I can reassure Mr. Foot that I am not worried about so-called "leaks"—(Laughter.)

Mr. Foot: I am not worried about so-called "leaks" either. I am worried about the fact that she is not worried because she is the leader of the Government and she is the one who told the world about the "leak" and her performance in the Cabinet. We only want to know which side she is on and whether they are winning.

Mr. Thatcher: The Government is winning. (Laughter.)

Mr. Shirley Summerskill (Edinburgh, Lab): As Mr. Thatcher stated on television that she did not make for efficient Cabinet government, is she now denying there have been any recent months?

As she cannot, she should spend time tracking down the mole or moles among her ministers. Mr. Thatcher: I have more important things to do.

Election of parent governors will be kept under review

Mr. Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said at question time that he would keep under review the possibility of setting a time limit for the implementation by schools of the provisions of the Education Act, 1980.

Mr. Gerald Neale (North Cornwall, Con) asked what his present proposals were for the implementation of those parts of the Act concerning parental choice and election of parent governors. Mr. Carlisle (Runcorn, C): The school admission provisions of the Education Act, 1980, were brought into effect last October and will first apply to admissions to schools in the autumn of 1982.

The sections of the Act providing for the election of parent and teacher governors will be brought into effect by about Easter.

For existing schools, compliance with the new provisions will be voluntary, but I shall keep under review the possibility of setting a date by which it will be made compulsory. In the light of the experience of voluntary compliance and the availability of resources.

Mr. Neale: Would he also reaffirm his support for parents who wish to participate further in the running of their children's schools by providing a voluntary service to state schools and confirm that if necessary he will amend the law to make it possible for local education authorities to accept such aid voluntarily?

Mr. Carlisle: It is right to welcome voluntary support that parents may wish to give towards the provision of their children's schools. At a time when finance is necessary to support the school, any support will do a disservice to education.

Mr. Alan Bell (Berwick-upon-Tweed, Lib): Is not the reality of the situation that parents have a right of choice? Is it not the right of parents to be members of school governing bodies who do not come into effect, in the vast majority of schools, for many years?

Why take up the time of the House with this legislation when he is not prepared to implement it and grant those rights to parents with immediate effect?

Mr. Carlisle: I do not accept that. He will find that what I have just said is totally consistent with what I said at the second reading of the Bill. There are 26,000 primary and secondary schools. It is impossible to get them all to change their management of government overnight.

I said during the second reading debate that I was not proposing to set a date for the first time, but I would rely upon them to carry that out voluntarily.

If they do not move in that direction and if I believe their delay is unnecessary I will review the situation and consider whether I might to impose a compulsory timetable which the Act gives me power to do.

Mr. William Shelton (Lambeth, Streatham, C): Parental choice must depend on knowledge and to some extent on the publication of examination results.

Mr. Carlisle: Choice must depend on informed knowledge. Part of that informed knowledge should be knowledge about the academic standards of the school.

Mr. Allen McKay (Penistone, Lab): In any constituency, where, due to Government action, in the next eight primary schools are closing, the term "parental choice" falls strangely on people's ears.

Mr. Carlisle: The drop in the number of children at school, particularly in the inner city areas—and we shall see 30 to 40 per cent fewer children of school age in the next few years—will be bound to mean the closing of a certain number of primary schools if we are to leave schools of sufficient size to give a viable education to the children in them.

Government close to school ratio target

The Government's plans provided for an overall pupil-teacher ratio of 18.8 in primary, primary and secondary schools in January this year, and present indications were that the target would be very close to that figure, said during questions.

Mr. William van Straubenzee (Wokingham, C): If effective education is to be provided, at least partly by the pupil-teacher ratio, in spite of present economic difficulties, is that figure an adequate target for those concerned with education?

Mr. Carlisle (Runcorn, C): It is. It is lower than the figure on the last year, but it is lower than the last year's figure of 18.8. Last year it was 18.8. This year it will be somewhere near 18.8; my prediction would be slightly less than that.

Mr. Anthony Marlow (Northampton, North, C): As the ratio in 1970 was 22.7 has there been a massive increase in the number of teachers since then? If not, why not revert to 22.7 and save £400m of public money?

Mr. Carlisle: No. If we look at any period over the years we would find, on most measurable circumstances you can take, that there has been a continuing, gradual increase in the number of teachers, but by raising the school leaving age which occurred before the date he mentioned.

I am not saying the pupil-teacher ratio is the only thing that matters, but I am entitled to say, in view of continual Labour criticism, that we should keep it in perspective in what is happening in the schools.

Mr. Neil Kinnock, chief Opposition spokesman on education (Barnet, Lab): Putting these restrictions into perspective, does he think the favourable trend of pupil-teacher ratios will be maintained when the school population falls by an estimated 13 per cent and the number of teachers falls by an estimated 12 per cent? To use his own words at the end of last year, that will reduce the quality of education.

Or does he acknowledge that, in the words of the Senior Chief Inspector of schools, Miss Sheila Brown, it will be a miracle if the curriculum remains intact in the future?

It is time he stopped talking about the prospect of maintaining the quality and standards of education in the face of the standard of school provision.

Mr. Carlisle: If he wishes to quote Miss Brown he should do it correctly. She said that those words he put in his mouth.

On the pupil-teacher ratio, while I still have to have further talks with the local authorities, I would expect it to be very much the same as I announced.

Mr. Kinnock: I understand she actually said "it will be a miracle if we can maintain the level of curriculum". If that is so, is she not an authoritative and effective spokeswoman on education?

Mr. Carlisle: Of course I do, and I rely strongly on her advice. I think the words she used were that she was not sure that the curriculum would be maintained in the face of the changes in the curriculum in some schools.

Bill seeks to reduce public sector dominance of transport: points system for driving offences

The Transport Bill contained important reforms and reduced once again the public sector dominance of the transport industry, said during questions.

Mr. John Gummer, Secretary of State for Transport, said when he moved the second reading of the Bill. The process of taking the Bill through the House will not be a role had begun with the Government's 1980 Transport Act.

The Bill has two major themes. The first was the introduction of private capital into state owned industries. The Government saw no advantage to the public sector as taxpayer or consumer in keeping businesses in the public sector when they could do better outside it. The second theme was to do with the safety of the roads and provision of road safety. The changes represented some of the most important reforms since the 1940s.

Part I of the Bill made possible a fundamental change in the status of the subsidiary companies of British Rail. The Government and the board had identified four businesses in which there were immediate prospects for the introduction of private capital—Sealink, Hovercraft, hotels and non-operational property assets. British Rail subsidiary companies had suffered rather than benefited from being part of the public sector. They had been subject to public sector constraints. They had been subject to a lack of management attention and most of all they had lacked investment. Successive boards had taken the view that the public sector had to give priority to the railways.

The only answer was the introduction of private capital into the businesses. The proposals in the Bill had the full support of the British Railways Board. Using the powers of the Transport Act, British Rail had already set up a holding company, British Rail Investments Ltd. The holding company had the responsibility for the management of the businesses. But if the businesses were to escape public sector constraints the board must surrender its ownership of the businesses. The Government was convinced of the need of the provisions in the Bill. Unless they took this kind of radical action, the future of these businesses would be bleak.

Part II of the Bill dealt with the main theme of the Bill—the

reform of road safety and traffic law.

At present, the motorist who committed three or more offences within three years was liable for disqualification for at least six months. The trouble was that this system did not distinguish between offences.

This had always seemed an entirely illogical position. I looked at the systems in operation in West Germany and New York. As a result, I convinced myself that our position in Britain should be similarly improved.

A points system was not only practicable, but had real benefits—above all that the motorists and professional drivers regarded such a change as being fair and both the public and the motorists had generally welcomed the proposals.

Each of the current endorsable offences was considered according to the number of points. When 12 points had been accumulated within a three-year period, disqualification would follow.

There would be different views about the points value of different offences; and the Government would be prepared to listen to arguments on that. It was hoped that MPs would feel that the new system would be more equitable than the present one.

Once the period of disqualification had been served, the slate would be wiped clean of points.

The second major provision of this part of the Bill was to tackle the problem of drink-driving. No one could be in any doubt or about the need for such a measure. This, about one-third of drivers killed in accidents had been above the prescribed limit. More than 150,000 Three-quarters of those convicted were over 120mg.

Some would argue for stiffer penalties, but I do not think they were necessary. The courts already had considerable powers. This crucial question concerned the Government's duty to the public. The Government had taken steps to enable enforcement to be more efficient than it was at present.

The Bill provided for evidential breathalysers at police stations—which would largely replace the need for analyses of blood and urine samples in the courts. The existing law had meant that guilty drivers had escaped on procedural technicalities. This had had its

MP's privilege complaint

The allegation of a Labour MP that Mr. Ian MacGregor, Chairman of the British Steel Corporation, had threatened to invest in his constituency if he persisted with criticisms in Parliament, is to be debated today (Wednesday).

The Speaker, Mr. George Thomas said: I have received a letter from Mr. Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab) a question of privilege. He alleges that at a meeting he had with the Chairman of the British Steel Corporation in December last year, Mr. MacGregor indicated that he persisted in making criticisms and attacks on the Corporation in Parliament, further investment in Wokingham would be ended.

It is so, it is a question of precedence, ought to be given. I therefore give precedence over the orders of the day tomorrow to a motion relating to Mr. Campbell-Savours' complaint. No debate can arise now.

Visit to Afghanistan by Labour MPs deplored

The visit by three Labour MPs to Afghanistan last week was deplored by the Prime Minister during question time. She did not respond to an invitation to condemn the visit, but said it was also a Conservative visit to Zaire.

The matter was raised by Mr. Fergus Montgomery (Aldershot, Lab), who asked Mrs. Thatcher whether she deplored the visit of three Labour MPs to Afghanistan. Mrs. Thatcher (Barnet, Con): I deplore the visit of three Labour MPs to Afghanistan. I deplore the visit of three Labour MPs to Afghanistan. I deplore the visit of three Labour MPs to Afghanistan.

Mr. Margaret Thatcher (Barnet, Con): I deplore the visit of three Labour MPs to Afghanistan. I deplore the visit of three Labour MPs to Afghanistan. I deplore the visit of three Labour MPs to Afghanistan.

Worst time to sell British Rail subsidiaries

Mr. Albert Booth, chief Opposition spokesman on transport (Barnet, Lab), said the Bill brought to bear on British Railways provisions which were at best irrelevant to the massive financial crisis facing it and at worst downright damaging to its future.

The minister proposed to take powers to force British Railways to sell its profitable subsidiaries. It was hard to envisage a worse time than the present for such a move, he said. The Government was seeking, as the Government apparently was, to find a time when the subsidiaries could be sold at the highest possible price.

If the Secretary of State intended that the money realized from the sale should be further used to subsidize the railways, the benefit would accrue to those who acquired the subsidiaries. It would only accrue to British Railways to the extent that the subsidiaries were sold at a profit.

British Rail was starved of cash for track maintenance, development and other essential services. These costs arose directly from Government action, and should be covered by Government.

Chance for access to capital investment

merely tinkered with the problem since 1967. The only way to stop the criminal act of driving with excess alcohol was to put it beyond doubt, because it was the only thing the sort of people they were talking about would understand.

John Boscawen, Opposition spokesman on transport (Kingston upon Hull, East, Lab) said this was a dash to the market place to sell off the nationalized industry sector. It was not possible to get the industry to sell off its assets to the private sector without compensation. The Government should be rationalized without compensation.

Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lynton, Con) said Mr. Fowler was in danger of being remembered as the minister who did not do his job. He had not grasped the nettle of drinking and driving.

Mr. Richard Mitchell (Southampton, Lab) said Mr. Fowler had admitted that the British Transport Docks Board was a success story. When something was said to be a success story, it was said to be a success story.

Mr. Frank Dobson (Camden, Holborn and St. Pancras, Lab) said that the Government's policy against nationalized industries was the main motivation behind the Transport Bill. It was a retrograde step in the Government's policy.

Mr. Timothy Brinton (Avesend, Con) said he did not support the drunken driver, but MPs had

It was wrong to include road safety in the Bill. They were important, but should have been dealt with in a separate Bill. As they made a lot of sense and could have been discussed in a better atmosphere.

This was a highly controversial party political matter when none of the parties wanted to be branded as being against road safety or pro drunken drivers.

He was surprised at Mr. Fowler's proposals on the bill. The bill was a dash to the market place to sell off the nationalized industry sector. It was not possible to get the industry to sell off its assets to the private sector without compensation. The Government should be rationalized without compensation.

Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lynton, Con) said Mr. Fowler was in danger of being remembered as the minister who did not do his job. He had not grasped the nettle of drinking and driving.

Mr. Richard Mitchell (Southampton, Lab) said Mr. Fowler had admitted that the British Transport Docks Board was a success story. When something was said to be a success story, it was said to be a success story.

Mr. Frank Dobson (Camden, Holborn and St. Pancras, Lab) said that the Government's policy against nationalized industries was the main motivation behind the Transport Bill. It was a retrograde step in the Government's policy.

Mr. Timothy Brinton (Avesend, Con) said he did not support the drunken driver, but MPs had

Those in work should help unemployed

House of Lords
The Social Security (Contributions) Bill was an important measure which would have significant effects for the economy in general and for the National Health Service and National Insurance contributors, said during questions.

Mr. Lord Williams of Desborough (Lab) said that the Bill was committed to reducing inflation by restraining the growth of the public sector borrowing requirement. The effect of the changes in the Bill would be to raise revenue which would enable the PSBR to be reduced in 1981-82 by £1,000m.

The Bill had three objectives. First, by reducing the Treasury supplement paid from taxation into the National Insurance fund, the Bill would help to correct the imbalance that had occurred since 1975. Over the last five years the payment from general taxation to the National Insurance fund had increased considerably in real terms and there was an undeniable need to adjust the balance.

Secondly, the Bill restored the proportion of the National Health Service expenditure financed from contributions to that it was as recently as 1976-77.

Thirdly, employers should not be asked to pay contributions at a higher rate than in 1976-77.

In effect it would mean that those in work would be called upon to shoulder an increased part of the burden of providing for those who were not in work.

Overall, the Bill brought the National Insurance fund into balance and would ensure the proper growth of benefits over the coming year.

Lord Wells-Pestell (Lab), for the Opposition, said the Bill was a further example of the Government's intention to limit the PSBR, no matter who suffered in the process.

The difficulty which faces us (he said) is when is the Govern-

ment going to get the PSBR under control? It seems quite clear that the Government is not doing this. There have been four forecasts by the Government in the past year, but the PSBR would be during 1980-1. Did they know what they were doing? This exercised their minds more than anything else. They seemed to be stumbling forward into the dark, and into greater darkness.

The Government was concerned about those on low pay it would have made more sense if it had lifted the ceiling on the contributions on employees earning over £200 a week. That would have brought in a great deal more money from a section of the community which was earning more than £10,000 a year.

The Bill imposed a serious burden on the low-paid workers. There was a hidden surcharge on the low-paid workers. It meant a substantial increase in national insurance contributions for them. Those on £22 or £23 a week would see their contributions increased by a penny every year.

The Government had placed too great a burden on the lower paid and not enough on the higher paid.

Lord Banks (Lib) said that the Bill was a disaster. It was a disaster for the low-paid workers, for the low-paid workers, for the low-paid workers.

Lord Spens (Ind) said the Bill was a disaster. It was a disaster for the low-paid workers, for the low-paid workers, for the low-paid workers.

Lord Cockfield, Minister of State, Treasury, said that when looking at the national insurance contributions were by appropriate source.

Earnings in the last 12 months had increased by more than 20 per cent, compared with an increase

in prices of 15 per cent. That was why employees had enjoyed an increase in real wages at a time when other members of the community might be suffering from considerable hardship.

It was only right in those circumstances that the Government made an extra contribution to the additional public expenditure being incurred. It was also right that the Government should have decided not to increase the rates of contribution paid by industry.

To the extent that the rates of contribution payable by employers had not been increased, that represented a valuable measure of assistance to industry in relation to what would have been the normal increase. Industry had been relieved of a burden which normally would have fallen on its shoulders.

It was true that the total contribution by employers, including the surcharge, would increase in cash terms next year. That increase would be less than £1,000 to £200 a week. Both factors were a reflection of the level of prices and earnings.

The cash increase paid by employers next year was likely to reflect a decline in contributions in real terms. To remove the link between contributions and benefits and would be a major departure from the arrangements which had been in force for many years.

The Bill was read a second time. House adjourned 4.54 pm.

Nevada exercise

British observers will be present at the exercise in Nevada in April on nuclear weapons accident safety, said during questions.

Mr. John Gummer, Secretary of State for Transport, said during questions.

Mr. John Gummer, Secretary of State for Transport, said during questions.

More schools added to assisted places scheme

spokesman on education (Bedford, Lab): Why is there no cash limit on the amount of money available to the assisted places scheme in England and Wales?

Mr. Boyson (Barnet, North, C): The cash limit is £3m to involve 5,000 children, 950 at sixth form level. The costs of the assisted places scheme are lower than the costs of state education.

In reply to a further question by Mr. Kinnock about the cash limit, Mr. Boyson said: On the independent sector it is a continuing one—the ability of parents to pay.

Curriculum
The new curriculum statement on the school curriculum would be published within a few weeks, Mr. Rhodes Boyson, Under Secretary for Education and Science, said during question time.

Indefatigable worker for European progress

European Parliament
Strasbourg
News of the sudden death in Strasbourg of Mr. Finn Olav Gundelach, Vice-President of the Commission responsible for agriculture and fisheries, was given to the Parliament by Madame Simone Velt, the president.

She said Parliament would be overwhelmed at the loss of Mr. Gundelach and she would find it difficult to express the deep emotions they felt.

Mr. Gundelach (she said) was born in April, 1925, after brilliant studies in economic sciences he served in the Danish foreign ministry where he acquired through his great professional abilities and his human characteristics.

He was head of the Danish mission to the EEC and took an active part in the accession of the Danes before becoming a Commissioner in 1973. Throughout all those years he had been an indefatigable worker for European progress and justice. He had devoted his life to that end and said he had killed himself in the task.

On behalf of the European Parliament she said she would extend to his family, to the Danish people, to his Danish colleagues and to the Commission our feelings of profound sadness and our assurance

EEC car makers need overall strategy

The Japanese were intent on conquering the world car industry in the way they had conquered the world motor cycle industry, Mr. Gilles Martinet (France, Soc) said when a debate on the European car industry, adjourned from the last session, was resumed.

He said that the idea that if the Japanese were to relax their trade barriers and allow in more European cars, this would ease the situation was a delusion, a childish dream. They would not change Japanese trade practices and Europe would continue to be a market for 25 to 30 per cent of Japanese cars.

They must stop the Japanese offensive but they could only do that if they proved to them that Europe was prepared to take temporary protectionist measures. They must end the egoistical behaviour of some of the governments. There was no French, German, Italian or Belgian problem to the problem they needed a European solution.

The debate was based on a report from the Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs calling for a Community strategy for the car industry enabling it to take advantage of the size of the Community market, its economic and political strength, and its

More schools added to assisted places scheme

Since the list of schools being invited to join the assisted places scheme was published on October 2, Mr. Rhodes Boyson, Under Secretary for Education and Science, said in reply to a question by Mr. John Boscawen (Kingston upon Hull, East, Lab).

Mr. Boyson (Barnet, North, C): Something like 37 schools have signed up to the assisted places scheme to be involved. In October a list was published of the schools which were invited to join the assisted places scheme. It was published in the House of Commons. It was published in the House of Commons.

Education report

Mr. Neil MacLennan, Under Secretary for Education and Science (Sutton and Epsom, Con), said in reply to a question by Mr. John Boscawen (Kingston upon Hull, East, Lab).

Mr. MacLennan said that the report of the review had been chairing into education provision for the 16 to 18-year-olds would be published on January 26.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons
Today at 2.30: Rail support grant orders for England and for Wales.

House of Lords
Today at 2.30: Debate on International Year of the Disabled. Bill of Rights for the Disabled.

La creme de la creme
also on pages 10 and 16



-Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants-

Secretary- A lively challenge for your experience

c.£6,000

If you enjoy responsibility and working with people, and would like to assist in the running of a multi-million pound business, then bring your experience to Dow in Hounslow. We are one of the world's leading chemical and plastics companies, and you'll be working for the Sales Manager and our plastics products division. A key member of the team, you'll provide support to our sales personnel and have plenty of contact with customers and distributors.

An outgoing personality and maturity (in the age range 27/35) are essential qualities in this job, in addition to first class secretarial skills. A starting salary around £6,000 is offered, together with attractive benefits and excellent working conditions in our new offices. Please call Diana Holmer on 01-759 9600 to ask for an application form, or write to her at Dow Chemical Company Limited, Meadowbank, Bath Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW9 9QY.

© Trademark of The Dow Chemical Company

DOW

c. £8,000 + p.a.

Private Secretary/P.A., 25-35ish, for young City Chairman. Essential top formal skills, education and immaculate appearance. Able to communicate at every level. Fascinating and varied duties. Only applicants with high level of experience and excellent track records should apply.

£6,500 + p.a. neg.

City Chairmen's P.A./Sec. has been promoted and he seeks replacement, 30+, high calibre person who can take over smoothly and assist business and social wise. Must have good formal skills and excellent track record. Involvement includes acquisitions and P.F. Superb offices, 4 weeks' hols. and fringe benefits.

c. £6,000 p.a. No shorthand or audio

Secretary, 18+, for W.I. pharmaceutical and research organisation. Must be first class typist and have previous medical or allied experience. Quick reflexes and flexible. Some experience Switch and Telex helpful. Additional language an advantage. 4 weeks' hols.

c. £7,000 p.a.

Confidential Executive P.A./Sec. mid, 20's, with good formal skills to assist W.I. Director. Wide ranging duties and personnel responsibilities. Must be flexible and well adjusted to handling people. Fringe benefits.

JOYCE GUINNESS BUREAU

For these and further top appointments phone

01-589 8907/0010

THE Recruitment Consultants

Director's Secretary/P.A.

close to Liverpool and Fenchurch Street Stations

up to £6,000

depending on age and experience

Overseas Containers Ltd., one of the world's largest container transport companies has a vacancy for a Secretary to work for the Traffic Director.

The position encompasses all the responsibilities of a Senior Secretary with emphasis on organisational and administrative skills. Contact with senior management will provide a wide span of interest and the opportunity to exercise initiative. An applicant with proficient shorthand and typing and a good standard of education should find the position both challenging and rewarding.

Generous fringe benefits include 4 weeks holiday, subsidised restaurant, interest free season ticket loan, free accident and life insurance, contributory pension scheme and sports and social club.

Contact Miss Ann Bishop on 01-488 1313 Ext. 4473 or write to Overseas Containers Limited, Beagle House, Braham Street, London E1 8EP.



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

HEADQUARTERS SECRETARIAT

Applications are invited for the post of SECRETARY in the Parliamentary Information and Reference Centre of the Association. Applicants should have good shorthand and typing skills and an interest in information services. Salary within scale £4,500-£6,745 plus inner London weighting allowance, at present £1,016. This is an interesting post in a small and friendly office.

Write to: Editor of Publications, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Headquarters Secretariat, Palace of Westminster, 7 Old Palace Yard, London SW1P 3JY.

£7,000 + bonus
PA TO DIRECTOR
AGE 30+

This is a very senior position within an international company in EC3. It would suit a career minded secretary with good shorthand, audio and the ability to take full responsibility for a variety of administrative tasks including functions and the Directors' health social calendar.

Tel. Mrs. Morris
D. T. SELECTION
Recruitment Consultants

JEANS! JEANS!

Young, fast-moving Joanne Co. needs a thoroughgoing competent, efficient, and friendly Secretary to work for a young and dynamic company with good shipping and export trade. The job involves a variety of responsible tasks and offers a challenging and rewarding career. Please send your CV to: Joanne Co. Ltd., 100, The Piazza, London EC2A 3JY.

Perfect Every Time
ALBEMARLE
APPOINTMENTS
01-493 6000

SHORTHAND/AUDIO SECRETARY

Three-lawyer London branch of a leading City firm requires shorthand/audio typist with minimum 120 wpm and 120/80 (100 mem. typ. wpm), plus 10 years experience. Office in Grosvenor Place, SW1. Applicants should be 20-35 years of age, have a flexible and mature attitude, and a good command of English. Salary £5,000 plus generous overtime, 4 weeks holiday and excellent medical and life insurance cover.

Please call Heather Nobel on 235 8581 for further details.

P.A. - £6,500

Efficient Secretary with good formal skills and ability to cope with all situations. Required to assist busy young professional man. Rewarding position dealing with clients, administration and generally being one too ahead.

Cavendish Personnel (Apt.) Ltd. 657 7637

International Management/Recruitment Consultancy

Secretary/P.A. to the Managing Director

Moxon Dolphin & Kerby is one of Britain's leading management recruitment consultancies, operating both in the UK and overseas. The company is situated in Great Portland Street, with pleasant modern offices close to several tube stations.

The Managing Director of the Selection Division is seeking a Secretary/P.A. who will thrive in the fast-moving and often pressurised environment that exists in the recruitment industry. The job comprises a substantial amount of telephone work and dealing with clients. Tact and diplomacy are therefore essential. In addition, you must be able to handle your own correspondence, possess excellent shorthand and typing skills and generally ensure that the office runs smoothly. In return your salary will be £6,500 per annum, together with free life assurance cover.

If you are self-confident, able to work on your own initiative and are aged between 20 and 40, then ring Gillian Atkins on 01-631 4411, or write to her with full curriculum vitae at:

**MOXON
DOLPHIN
& KERBY LTD** 1st floor, 178-202 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5TB.

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

We are a secretarial recruitment consultancy specialising in high calibre secretarial vacancies. We are looking for a consultant to join this company. Our marketing depends almost entirely on recommendation and reputation. Consequently, the person we are looking for will be able to prove a high degree of successful application, dealing with people at all levels. You will need to have at least two years' experience as an executive, although not necessarily in the recruitment industry. A lively personality, determination, motivation and a recognisably professional approach will help you succeed in an exciting job with a progressive company.

TEMPORARY SECRETARIAL EXECUTIVE
Our temporary secretarial service is currently small and we would like to recruit an experienced person to help us increase its size in a properly controlled way. An ability to make quick decisions and to communicate them professionally without forgetting that we will not compromise the manner in which we deal with people, will help you to spearhead this development.

REMUNERATION
Job satisfaction in a successful environment, good basic salary, profit linked company bonus, P.P.P., company car and other perks are there to be earned by the successful applicants. This package makes it highly unlikely that you move to us will cause you any sacrifice.

Please write with your C.V. to:

ANGELA MORTIMER LTD.
Recruitment Consultants
629 9686
166 Piccadilly

SEC/RESEARCH ASSISTANT

We're Haden Carrier, one of the world's leading environmental engineering organisations, and we're seeking a first rate Secretary/Research Assistant to work for our new Corporate Development Director. You'll be based at our comfortable offices in Tavistock Sq. (handy for Euston and Kings Cross) and you must have excellent secretarial skills (90/125), an interest in corporate research plus an advanced qualification in business studies or economics.

It's a fascinating opportunity for someone aged 25 or over, of smart appearance with an outgoing personality. Apart from a salary of £6,500 we provide a subsidised staff restaurant, interest free season ticket loan and several other benefits.

For full details please phone or write to Jean Parr, Personnel Officer, Haden Carrier Ltd., 7-12 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9LZ. Tel: 01-387 1288

TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

Comstar, an international computer company requires an Assistant Administrator in their training department based in Victoria, London. This is a unique opportunity... a genuinely interesting and rewarding job.

PEOPLE You must be happy to work with clients attending our courses—arranging rooms, coffee, lunches.
ADMIN You will spend a time taking phone bookings, issuing confirmation letters, chasing up lecturers, scheduling new courses.
COMPUTERS We keep training records on a computer database. We'll train you how to use it. This could be the start of a new career.
ARTWORK We need help with the design and production of new courses. If you are good at lettering, graphics or basic design, this is a genuine future.
JOBS WITH A GENUINE FUTURE. Reliable, Early Bird, Pleasant Personality 21

CONTACT Nadia McKay 01-222 5685

City Merchant Bank DIRECTORS' SECRETARY

Age 25-35 c.£6,000

A leading City Merchant Bank one of the Accepted Houses has a vacancy for a thoroughgoing and well-organised secretary with first-class shorthand and typing skills and capable of working under pressure. The offices are located close to Liverpool St. Moorgate and Bank stations. In addition to a competitive salary, substantial staff benefits will include: low interest housing loan, non-contributory pension scheme with free life insurance, profit sharing, family medical cover, interest free season ticket loan and £1 per day lunch vouchers. The company has a sports and social club. PLEASE APPLY IN WRITING WITH FULL DETAILS TO THE PERSONNEL MANAGER, BOX T 694, 7/A HANWAY HOUSE, CLARK'S BISHOPSGATE, LONDON EC2M 4SL.

BILINGUAL SECRETARY

Interesting position in SW3, working for busy international sports administrator. Fluent written/spoken French essential. Other languages useful. Excellent skills (including audio) required. Salary £5,344 plus proficiency payments.

For further details call Susan Allett, 584 3276.

YOU CHOOSE!

EC2 £6,000-£7,000
New Year—new branch of a European Bank—new job for you as secretary to the General Manager? Sound sec/P.A. telex and admin. skills essential in this start-up situation. Ideally you'll be 25-30 with banking/financial experience. Knowledge of German, French or Spanish a definite advantage.

WC1 £6,500 neg.
More office manager than secretary! These two exceptionally pleasant, professional directors generate plenty of PA and client liaison work. Recruitment Consultancy with a marketing emphasis is their priority. There are also Real Estate and Trading interests. Top sec/telex skills, efficiency, sparkle and good humour essential. Around 30, pref. driver and non-smoker, is this you?

EC2 £6,000
Super boss—MD of this U.S.A. Commodity Brokers' masses of business/social organising; first rate Company benefits including BUPA and interest free STL. Who could ask for more! Have you (age 25+) the skills and personality to meet the challenge?

EC2 to £6,500
This mining subsidiary—internationally renowned mother company—needs a senior audio secretary for two executives. Working with them and their team of geologists in a brand new office set-up you'll have to enthusiastically turn your hand to a variety of duties.

EC4 £6,500 + bonus
Two top executives of this American Bank need a totally fluent bilingual secretary, French/English, with min. 110 w/h in both languages. The work is really interesting and the atmosphere superb. Add to this excellent Company benefits. Can you complete the picture?
Contact us now—Elly Nagler 01-629 8511 or Caroline Oldroyd 01-459 5968.

Executive Secretaries

Senior Secretary

Oil Industry

Marathon International Petroleum (GB) Ltd. is one of the most dynamic and fast growing oil companies engaged in the exploration and production of oil and gas, both in the North Sea and throughout the world. Our Employee Relations Department provides a total personnel service to the UK operations and also co-ordinates international resources. We now require an experienced, professional Secretary who will work primarily for our Employee Relations Manager.

For this senior position, which will entail considerable typing, excellent all round secretarial skills—including shorthand—are required. The nature of the department's work demands a high level of confidentiality and discretion along with the ability to organise and work closely with senior management. Additionally, a mature outlook and a strong unflexible personality are essential to deal with the often heavy workload. Candidates should be aged 25-35 with previous experience gained in a well-run organisation.

The salary we are offering is unlikely to disappoint suitable candidates. In addition to what we offer a bonus allowance, non-contributory pension scheme and an interest-free season ticket loan. Our London headquarters are situated close to both Baker Street and Marylebone stations.

For further details and an application form please telephone or write to:

Cherie Wilkinson,
Employee Relations Dept.,
Marathon International Petroleum (GB) Ltd.,
174 Marylebone Road, LONDON NW1 5AT.
Tel: 01-488 9222.

Elizabeth Hunt

P.A. TO THE CHAIRMAN £6,500
Our client, a City P.A. company, seeks a socially confident P.A. to handle his club and social accounts. He needs a well-dressed confident P.A. Secretary. Ideally you should have an advertising background and knowledge of a second language would be useful. 60/100. Age 23+.

A SPORTING CHANCE TO £6,000
Break away from routine and join a W.I. co. Keen to utilise your abilities, a board Director of this world-renowned P.P.R. consultancy is responsible for key luxury accounts. He needs a well-dressed confident P.A. Secretary. Ideally you should have an advertising background and knowledge of a second language would be useful. 60/100. Age 23+.

MARKET RESEARCH TO £6,000
The American V.P. of this international market research company as his P.A. Secretary. This position offers plenty of scope to develop your skills and involves an involvement on the research side. Good formal skills needed.

STRIKE OIL TO £6,500
Become P.A. Sec. to the financial Director of a medium sized oil company. He'd like a real assistant so either a business admin. statistics or a financial background is essential. Good formal skills needed. Shorthand an asset.

Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants
18 Grosvenor Street London W1 Telephone 01-499 2721

N.N.E.B.

PA/SECRETARY TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE
c. £7,000

This is a tough job and to do it you would need the personality and experience to stay organised under pressure, to expect crises and enjoy the responsibility of handling them. The work involves running a small central office, servicing the Board's 2 committees, maintaining a network of contacts with colleges, taking overall responsibility for the administration of a national examination—and above all the thankless task of keeping me organised.

If you think you're right for the job, send a c.v. to:
Michael Stanton, Chief Executive
NNEB
Argyle House,
29/31 Euston Road, N.W.1
and then ring to arrange an informal interview, 837 5458

WORK IN GERMANY

A leading international company in the packing industry is looking for a senior bi-lingual Secretary. Fluent English and German. The position is that of Secretary to Managing Director and is based near Düsseldorf, West Germany.

The work is interesting and varied and requires someone with above average skills in audio typing. Shorthand is an advantage but not essential.

Terms and conditions of employment are excellent and accommodation assistance will be given. The contract will be reviewed after one year.

Please send C.V. to Mr. C. R. Salthouse, Vice-President Administration, Sünede Europa, Rlagway House, Kelvin Road, Newbury RG13 2BD.

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST FOR SURVEYORS IN MAYFAIR

We are seeking someone articulate, polished and mature with ability to run our busy reception area and operate a PMBX 40 switchboard. Hours 9.15-5.45, four weeks holiday, salary negotiable. Please write or telephone.

Pamela Dunn, Fletcher King, 10-12 Cork St., London, W1.
01-734 7701.

Managing Director's Secretary

UP TO £6,000
Based Banbury

This is a new and exciting opportunity in every sense. You'll join the new Managing Director of a freshly formed Division that's ready to expand with the substantial resources of a public company behind it. And you can play an important role in its assured growth and success.

Much more than the usual correspondence work is envisaged, you'll be expected to become fully involved in the job and to have the confidence to handle important company matters with discretion.

Your shorthand and typing must be top class, but initiative and administrative ability is just as essential, together with a self-assured personality.

Salary is negotiable up to £6,000 plus fringe benefits which include a staff restaurant and our own Squash Court.

If you are aged 25+ and working at Senior Director level already and know you can make a real contribution in this post, send full career details to:

Christine Boylan, Personnel Department,
London Brick Buildings Limited, Banbury House,
Holly Walk, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.



Editorial Secretary

Salary up to £5,530 p.a.

Book Club Associates, jointly owned by W. H. Smith & Noddy, have a vacancy in their Editorial Department for a competent Secretary to work for two Editors.

If you like a varied work schedule, are well organised, have a confident telephone manner and enjoy responsibility, then this could be the change you have been looking for.

The ideal applicant will have good secretarial skills, "A" level standard of education and considerable secretarial and administrative experience. Previous publishing experience would be an advantage.

Benefits include 50p per day L.V.s, 4 weeks holiday, season ticket loans and excellent staff discounts on books, merchandise, records, etc.

Please apply with c.v., or telephone for application form, to
Harriet Dawson, Personnel Officer, BOOK CLUB ASSOCIATES,
Smith/Doddie House, 47 Newman Street, London W1P 6EN.
Tel. 01-437 8341.

BOOK CLUB ASSOCIATES

W.H. Smith/Doddie House



CHEMICAL BANK INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

SECRETARY

c.£6,750 p.a.

An efficient, hard-working, secretary is required for two of our Marketing Executives.

The successful applicant must be numerate, have good shorthand and typing combined with initiative, the ability to communicate with people at all levels, and have a sense of humour!

The work is interesting and varied and will appeal to someone who is looking for a demanding and satisfying job.

In addition to a salary of around £6,750 p.a. we offer an attractive fringe benefit programme which includes a free lunch.

Please write in the first instance, with full details of your experience to: Penny Bushell, Chemical Bank International Limited, Union Court, 33 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1EA.

SECRETARY

TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

WEST LONDON £7,000

Our client, a profitable and successful consumer goods company with a product range of national distinction, seeks a thoroughly skilled, practical and intelligent Secretary, aged 24+, to the Managing Director.

It's a tough, demanding environment which requires a high level of commitment but with the emphasis being on job satisfaction and the opportunity to play a wider, more varied role when required.

You, as the successful candidate will also possess an attractive, outgoing personality which will enable you to converse with all levels of management.

Please telephone without delay:

Peter Woolnough on 734 6852

R.S.V.P. Recruitment
Sutherland House
5-6 Argyle Street,
London W1E 6EZ

SINCLAIR GOLDSMITH

An expanding firm of Chartered Surveyors and Property Consultants based in the West End requires a top-class Secretary/P.A. for their two Senior Partners. They are seeking a hardworking and conscientious person with a sense of commitment able to assume responsibility at all times particularly in view of the firm's international connections.

An outstanding salary is offered for the right applicant. If interested please telephone in the first instance:—

STEVEN L. LINDEN—PARTNERSHIP SECRETARY
01-486 6050

THE ARTS

Resilience of an operatic 'Romeo'

"One of the incurable delusions of the musical world," wrote Ernest Newman, "is that *Romeo and Juliet* is ideal material for an opera. Easy to be deluded, though, with the pair of lovers, neatly silhouetted against their feuding families, the ready-made duets, ensembles and choruses, the masked ball and the fencing, the balcony and the bedroom, the potion and the double suicide. At least seven operas on the subject were highly successful in their own day; yet, with one exception, it has been only the non-operatic *Romeo and Juliet* of Berlioz, Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev that have stood the test of time.

That exception is Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette*, which, like *Faust*, arrived at the Paris Opéra by way of a première at the Paris Théâtre Lyrique in 1867, since when it has been long been out of the repertoire in France. But it has never been performed in Germany and has rarely been heard of in Italy since the days of Gligli. England, too, has had little chance to prove Newman right or wrong. When *Romeo and Juliet* opens tonight at the London Coliseum in a new production by the English National Opera, it will be the first performance of Gounod's work in this country for half a century.

The 1930 Covent Garden production was conducted by Sir John Barbirolli with Edith Mason as Juliet; English National Opera have found themselves the nice combi-

nation of a French conductor in Louis Frémaux, renowned for his work in opera at Monte Carlo and for his Welsh National Pearl Fishers and the thoroughly English Juliet in Valerie Masterson, who, appropriately enough, seems to belong as much to France and French opera these days as she does to England.

From their experience of studying the work itself, neither M Frémaux nor Miss Masterson can think why Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet* has been absent so long. M Frémaux feels that the French repertoire as a whole has tended to be overlooked, but, after successful revivals of *Werther* and *Manon* in the Seventies, audiences and managements began to look for something else. With the familiarity of its plot and the added bonus of a well-written libretto which follows Shakespeare closely (there is only one minor change in the introduction of Stephano, Romeo's page), Gounod's opera seems a good bet for English audiences who do not like their Shakespeare tampered with too much.

Edmund Tracey has translated Barber and Carré's libretto into English for the new production. It is a good, clear translation, M Frémaux says, "and it was difficult because he had to consider every word not only in the context of the melody but also with reference to Shakespeare's text. But everybody in the company has worked with



Louis Frémaux and Valerie Masterson

it, and it has been improved in places by the singers themselves. Structurally and musically he considers the work a masterpiece: "Perhaps even better achieved than *Faust*, because Gounod wrote it later, with the full experience of theatre, orchestration, melody..."

The role of Juliet is entirely new to Miss Masterson and, although her voice is particularly well suited to the French repertoire as a whole, she feels especially at home with the weight and tessitura of Gounod's vocal writing here. "It covers a big range; there are the same sorts of problems as in Marguerite's music in *Faust* in going from one extreme to another. Both, for instance, have a waltz song in the first act which bears no

relation at all to the last act, which is very heavy vocally. "It's interesting to see how Juliet develops musically. She's quite girlish in the first act, her music is frothy and light, but she soon develops into the middle register of the voice with a much thicker quality in the orchestra. By the fourth act and the big love duet it is real lyrical singing. Juliet is supposed to be a 14-year-old, but she matures very quickly in the opera."

Although Miss Masterson will sing the role in English and is glad to have the chance to do so before taking it, she hopes, to Paris, then to Spain and America, she has worked hard at assimilating the French "sound" of the part, something she finds hard to define but considers essential

to any Juliet. "Janine Micheau, who sang the part in Paris in the Fifties, is my idol—she was the French Juliet, and I like to think I've absorbed her flavourings, that they've nurtured my musical feelings..."

Romeo and Juliet is the first of three new French operas for Miss Masterson this year. Will her future career woo her more and more to France and French opera? She plans for the time being to divide her work more or less equally between home and abroad: she will be in London for *Julius Caesar* in May and for *Charpentier's Louise* in September. That will be produced for the English National Opera by Jean-Claude Auray, the very man who first led Miss Masterson to

France after spotting her at the Coliseum as Manon and inviting her to play the part in Toulouse.

In September she will be in Geneva for *Mireille*, an opera in which Gounod's subject and musical treatment is often thought to be most perfectly matched. Liverpool Grand Opera claimed to put on the first English staging of its original five-act version last November, and it is an opera that Miss Masterson would very much like to see performed in London. Perhaps *Romeo and Juliet* will pave the way. After all, it earned the high praise of Berlioz, that most grudging of critics, and it made Gounod, at the age of nearly 50, feel 20 once again.

Hilary Finch

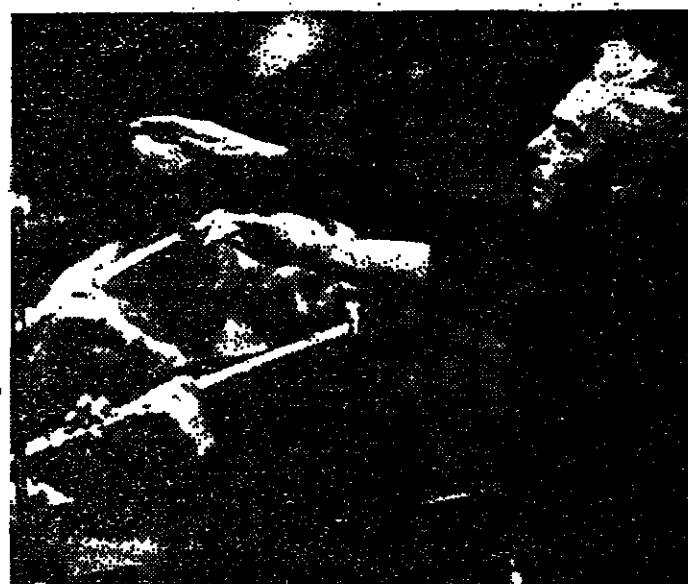
The many sides of Karajan

West Berlin. The Berlin Philharmonic made surprisingly little fuss over Herbert von Karajan's silver anniversary as its lifetime conductor—no press releases, virtually no advance publicity. Inevitably, an exchange of speeches did take place during a concert in the Philharmonie, between West Berlin's Governing Mayor Dietrich Stobbe and the maestro, but they remained almost apologetically brief.

Berliners tend to take it for granted that their orchestra (which gets plenty of their tax money) ranks as the best in the world. It seems farious to apply such a superlative to any orchestra, but it does seem safe to say that the Berlin Philharmonic has very few rivals and no superiors at all. Where else in the world can an orchestra claim the benefits of a quarter-century association with a great conductor?

Mayor Stobbe addressed Karajan as "the world's most celebrated conductor", which no doubt caused the eyebrows of Berlin's many Leonard Bernstein fans to rise. The mayor called Karajan, to his face, "a contradictory many-sided" and "a brittle (or inflexible) but so warmhearted man". He paid tribute not only to Karajan the conductor and operatic stage director but also to the Academy of the Karajan Foundation, which trains young orchestral musicians, and to the competition for youth orchestras which Karajan sponsors and which brings the world's best to play against one another. Stobbe also hailed the orchestra's many foreign concert tours (including a recent one to China), which as public relations have proved worth a fortune to the walled city of West Berlin.

"Karajan said in response: 'Actually, it has never been granted to me during my life to look back. I have always stood in the prow of the ship, and now, when all of that lies behind us, the countless efforts, the work, the joy in the work, joy in the contact with the orchestra, with which I have travelled throughout



the world, everything comes together here in one second and is nothing other than the awareness that the future lies before us. We must exert ourselves as much as ever, if not more so. When one goes up a mountain, when it gets higher, the air becomes thinner and every step becomes an augmented, sometimes tenuous exertion. Thus it is with us now: the smallest improvement is an enormous strain, because in the nature of things this quality is there which one can attain only after long, long years. But that has become for us today, if I may say so, a possession, and for that reason it is easy to look into the future and see how one can do it better."

Karajan writes his own tickets. Karajan. Not for years has he agreed to conduct opera here. The annual Berlin Festival always used to open with a gala concert by Karajan and the Philharmonic; since Karajan has so often had other fish he preferred to fry, the festival has long since quietly abandoned that tradition.

As a silver-anniversary gift, Mayor Stobbe gave Karajan a

portrait etching by Max Liebermann of Richard Strauss. Soon afterwards Karajan and his orchestra presented an unusually "gala" programme of two Strauss works, with Anna Tomova-Sintova singing the *Four Last Songs* and Wolfgang Christ and Mstislav Rostropovich as the soloists in *Don Quixote*. The evening found them in top form, and the festive audience rewarded them with lengthy ovations.

Two hummingbirds of hierarchy—socio-musical—interaction which punctuated the evening merit recording. At the end of the songs, the maestro kissed Miss Tomova-Sintova's hands, then she, perhaps without precedent, kissed him. At the end of *Don Quixote* Rostropovich, that Russian volcano in perpetual eruption, kissed Karajan on both cheeks and then went round to the work's *Sancho Panza*. Mr Christ, to do the same to him. Both kissed Rostropovich back. For one wild instant one wondered whether Mr Christ, at that carnival frenzy, would kiss his boss.

Paul Moor

The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy BBC 2

Miles Kingston

HEGTTG, for all those *Times* readers who have been up the Orinoco or caught in an MI snarl-up for the last few years, is now an extremely funny and imaginative radio science-fiction series which became a cult, a book, a record and a stage play, is now a television series and will no doubt become film, calendar and cuddly toy. It started with the destruction of the earth (to make way for an intergalactic expressway), and goes on to detail the adventures of the two survivors, earthling Arthur Dent and Betelgeusian Ford Prefect, armed only with the *Time Out*

of outer space, the *Joke*, opinionated *Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

Now, the test of a cult is whether its devotees will hang on after it has been passed in the test. *HEGTTG* passes its test easily. But there is a further test. Man is, as far as we know, the only creature in the universe who can devise an idea which works best in a top-visual medium (radio, record, book) and then insist on transferring it to a visual medium. The stage play was by all accounts disastrous. Undeterred, the author, Douglas Adams, has plunged on into television and I am relieved to report that the result is not half bad. The half that is not bad is as you might expect, the words, for Adams's mind is a tireless source of paradoxes, teasing notions and inventive ideas. Even of names, which are often the hardest

bit; I cannot explain why, but Zaphod Beeblebrox is exactly right for the former president of the galaxy, and never was a cocktail better named than the "Pan-Galactic Gargle Blaster".

The other half is not bad either, actually. The special effects and noises boys could not possibly hope to win against the budget of something like *Star Wars*, but they earn an honourable draw. The cast, stoutly led by Simon Jones and David Dixon, have to fight mostly against the fact that nothing much happens. What happens mostly is a lot of good talk about what little is happening, which is why the star actor never even appears; Peter Jones's oh-so-cool voice as the Guide narrates words we see simultaneously on the screen—a radio-to-television trick which should not work but does beautifully.

Another solidly accomplished work was Jorgen Jersild's *Trait Pitches on Concert*, which evoked old instruments such as the tambourin in No 1 and old dance forms like the farandole in No 3, but always to fresh and pleasantly disconcerting effect. These are virtuoso pieces whose severe tests Miss Oland passed with complete success, her interpretation being at once vivid and self-effacing. Jersild's *Chaconne* is a fluent and personal, and *Piece No 2*, called "Romanticism", builds into a sophisticated rough-and-tumble which at the end is quickened and simplified in a truly surprising way.

In their performance of Beethoven's Cello Sonata, op 102, no 1, Lower Blake and Janice Dawson promised much. The initial Andante had the right sort of prelude, exploratory feeling while the two Allegro vivace movements were robustly phrased. Miss Blake's tone, if not large, is consistent, and a good balance

was maintained between the two instruments. The full measure of this late composition was by no means taken by these young players, of course, but something of the Adagio's brooding intensity was certainly suggested.

Two very attractive pieces by Frank Bridge followed. "Mélodie" gave an ardent, finely-spun melodic line to the cello, while "Spring Song" was more homely in its turns of phrase. Each received a well-considered performance, exactly to scale. Debussy's Sonata was more of an approximation. Again, there was a good balance between cello and piano, but the essential impression of spaciousness out of proportion to the work's brevity, of a paradoxical conciliation of clarity and complexity, was missing, as was the concentration of the central Sérénade. In fact the whole piece sounded fragmentary, whereas its idea should coalesce.

Bernard Goodeau delivered the notes of the first and last movements of Bach's *Italian Concerto* with scarcely any variation of stress or dynamics, and this set the style of his entire recital. Even the Andante was without any suggestion of intimacy. Similarly, the Allegro moderato of Schubert's Sonata, D 664, was all conceived on the same level, or rather on a flat plane, at a uniform degree of intensity, so that most of the meaning disappeared. Inadequate though they were, in the slow movement there were some slight variations in touch, a few glimmers of a response to Schubert's musical ideas. But in the finale we returned to the flat plane of unadorned literal statement.

The effect of such piano playing was strange in Bach, stranger in Schubert, stranger of all in Chopin. In the introduction of the *Polonaise Fantasy*, op 61, Mr Goodeau managed a slight degree of flexibility, but once into the main body of the piece everything was again mechanical, quite without any hint that imagination has any place in music. Each phrase was banged out with a disconcerting amalgam of technical accuracy and emotional indifference.

Aside from a Handel trio sonata, the Trio Krosta, with an instrumentation of flute, oboe and piano, necessarily presented unfamiliar music. Among this was a Mozart Fantasy that I had never heard before and which received an expressive performance. An Introduction and Allegro alla Tarantella, specially written for the group by Gordon Jacob, had its first hearing, and though its thoughts were of no great moment they were spun out with much instrumental resource. The flute and oboe were driven particularly hard, yet the piece was played engagingly, in fact with zest.

Of equal compositional skill and far greater musical consequence was a Trio by Franz Liszt, whose works are unfortunately not much heard at present. Each of the three movements is closely even though, argued, although the thought is well diversified. This also had a good performance.

Miss Milanova particularly well caught the spirit of the central "Interlude" and it occasionally resonated. Her music, above all in the lovely violin arabesques over sustained keyboard harmonies with which it ends, Vladimir's *Chant* proved to be rather luxuriantly plaintive, full of sweeping self-indulgent slavic phrases and played as to the manner born. Sarasate's *Carmen Fantasy* is equally straightforward in intent, being a dazzling fireworks display, again thrown off by Miss Milanova with nonchalant mastery.

Max Harrison

Tintin and the Black Island

Arts

Irving Wardle

Four years have passed since Hergé's intrepid boy reporter first conducted an inquiry at this address, but from the new generation of seven to 12-year-olds packing out the Arts is clear that he has not yet been outclassed by Buffalo Arthur.

The present adventure (adapted by Geoffrey Case) runs true

to form with the bequipped hero and his faithful bound stumbling upon an international crime ring and running the villains to earth in spite of blundering missions from the forces of law and order. This time the gang are printing their own money, and the chase leads to a Hebridean island of sinister reputation where everybody, including two bowler-hatted Scotland Yard cops, goes into killing.

Comic relief, supplied mainly by the above-mentioned pair, is not up to much. But villainy, of the reliable German variety, is fast moving and ruthless, and even generates some laughs of its own; particularly from Hugh Hayes, who goes through the show with an upraised

plaster-encased arm which serves variously as a Hitler salute and a cost-hanger; and from Leda Hodgson, as a self-dramatising spy with her heart so much in the right place that she is finally presented with an aircraft propeller for her solo getaway.

Richard Drabble is in perfect control of the hero's precocious confidence and his flair for putting one and one together; Tony Wredden's simply staged production contains some well-timed surprises, ingenious effects (such as the repeated line "Come on" accelerating into the roar of an aircraft engine) and achieves a good balance between thrills and burlesque.

London debuts

One reason for starting with Anne Oland is the enterprising programme she offered. This inevitably attracted only a small audience, yet its members were considerably rewarded. Actually, the first of Stravinsky's *Three Fantaisies*, op. 11, was played fluently, but with the music's stormy expressiveness clouded by a hard tone and a certain rhythmic inflexibility. The Schumannesque second and third items in this group outshined their rivals, too, yet here Miss Oland settled down and started to produce a warmly rounded tone.

Her mezzle was shown, though, in Nielsen's Variations, op. 40, whose invention is altogether more cogent, and the evening's most convincing was excellently conveyed. The sequence of events is greatly varied and, although some of the contrasts are extreme, they were always made to sound logical. Similar comments apply to Nielsen's *Chaconne*, op. 32, which likewise has much unobtrusively original piano writing. Miss Oland's playing was here beautifully attuned to the composer's ideas, and in particular to the rises and falls of his music's intensity.

Another solidly accomplished work was Jorgen Jersild's *Trait Pitches on Concert*, which evoked old instruments such as the tambourin in No 1 and old dance forms like the farandole in No 3, but always to fresh and pleasantly disconcerting effect. These are virtuoso pieces whose severe tests Miss Oland passed with complete success, her interpretation being at once vivid and self-effacing. Jersild's *Chaconne* is a fluent and personal, and *Piece No 2*, called "Romanticism", builds into a sophisticated rough-and-tumble which at the end is quickened and simplified in a truly surprising way.

In their performance of Beethoven's Cello Sonata, op 102, no 1, Lower Blake and Janice Dawson promised much. The initial Andante had the right sort of prelude, exploratory feeling while the two Allegro vivace movements were robustly phrased. Miss Blake's tone, if not large, is consistent, and a good balance

was maintained between the two instruments. The full measure of this late composition was by no means taken by these young players, of course, but something of the Adagio's brooding intensity was certainly suggested.

Two very attractive pieces by Frank Bridge followed. "Mélodie" gave an ardent, finely-spun melodic line to the cello, while "Spring Song" was more homely in its turns of phrase. Each received a well-considered performance, exactly to scale. Debussy's Sonata was more of an approximation. Again, there was a good balance between cello and piano, but the essential impression of spaciousness out of proportion to the work's brevity, of a paradoxical conciliation of clarity and complexity, was missing, as was the concentration of the central Sérénade. In fact the whole piece sounded fragmentary, whereas its idea should coalesce.

Bernard Goodeau delivered the notes of the first and last movements of Bach's *Italian Concerto* with scarcely any variation of stress or dynamics, and this set the style of his entire recital. Even the Andante was without any suggestion of intimacy. Similarly, the Allegro moderato of Schubert's Sonata, D 664, was all conceived on the same level, or rather on a flat plane, at a uniform degree of intensity, so that most of the meaning disappeared. Inadequate though they were, in the slow movement there were some slight variations in touch, a few glimmers of a response to Schubert's musical ideas. But in the finale we returned to the flat plane of unadorned literal statement.

The effect of such piano playing was strange in Bach, stranger in Schubert, stranger of all in Chopin. In the introduction of the *Polonaise Fantasy*, op 61, Mr Goodeau managed a slight degree of flexibility, but once into the main body of the piece everything was again mechanical, quite without any hint that imagination has any place in music. Each phrase was banged out with a disconcerting amalgam of technical accuracy and emotional indifference.

Intricate Mime Cockpit

Irving Wardle

The main piece in this contribution to the fifth International London Mime Festival is an adaptation of Zola's *Thérèse Raquin* which shows the company of three attempting to translate an arch-naturalist into the most non-naturalistic of stage forms.

It says much for the skills of Ian Cameron, Mollie Guilfoyle, and Robert Williams that they have assembled a workable pantomime from this resistant material. At the same time they are continually colliding with the non-verbal limits.

Mime generally runs into trouble with detailed narrative, as it does here with the group of minor figures who supply a social background to the central *crime passionnel*. Putting them into masks does nothing to help the story line; and they come to life only when they quit the street and reappear behind the final strangled waltz of Thérèse and her lover.

The other limitation is that much of pantomime's language is devised for comedy.

Single Handed Young Vic Studio

Ned Chaillet

Tim Thomas has had a popular one-man show for several years now, a migratory fringe production with dedicated followers. Still, he has left relatively undiscovered with his flights of comic fancy unmoored for broader audiences and his inventive and varied routines unpolished for more certain laughter.

In sleepy geniality he varies his present act, a production he calls *Single Handed*, with satirical guitar-accompanied songs, gloves and bare hands that perform wittily on a puppet stage, art imitations of a recognisable American marionette and the South African premier, and he never stays too long with one routine, usually simply ambling off to do something else.

It takes a certain amount of state-of-the-art knowledge how much ambling you can do, and Mr Thomas has that down pat.

Guarneri Quartet Queen Elizabeth Hall

Paul Griffiths

The Guarneri Quartet are not such frequent visitors, that we have grown used to playing as distinctive and as they provided in their recital on Monday, given under the "Mainly Mozart" umbrella, but in fact leaving the honoured composer after a performance of his "Dissonance" quartet that though not accident-free, still benefited greatly from their style. Their special good fortune is to have in Arnold Steinhardt a leader who leads not from on top but from within, aphoristically and practically; he guides their playing its expressive tone, particularly when inwardness is at issue, and his fragile, human, breathing but also singing line seemed to be protected and reassured by the rather stouter voices of his three companions.

The effect was of course valuable in the Mozart slow move-

To put over the idea that Thérèse's husband is a complacently unsuspecting dupe, he has to be shown as an outright fool, his mouth forever agape in a cretinous grin whenever he is not guzzling the contents of the medicine cupboard or snoring beside his sleepless wife.

But the approach to the seduction, the murder, and the guilt-laden final scenes do work extremely well. They are played as a precise recap, gesture by gesture, of the opening with the difference that the magnetic partners now repel instead of attracting one another. The passages in which the drowned man forces them apart by gently swimming between them are also finely imagined to show that there is no escape from this unbearably amiable ghost.

The use of fairground music strengthens the sense of a malignantly developing fable, and whatever the limitations of the masks, they are beautifully expressive objects and serve (when worn by mannequins) to create the illusion of an enlarged company.

The programme begins with a heavily facetious sketch on the Creation, featuring God the Father in the likeness of a nut-cracker-jawed pedant in a head-master's gown belching the universe into existence.

perhaps from his early experiences with English experimental groups. He also seems to know just what his rubbery face looks like at each extraordinary distortion and his voice, which handles multiple accents with ease, also manages to produce a sharp suggestion of Bob Dylan's voice singing: "I've been reborn/Now I sing corn."

Other songs have much of the scatty humour of London Wainwright about them, with the same bold emphasis on puns and jokes, but he is also a careful observer of the things he mocks so that his sympathies are always clear. His military spokesman is convinced that nuclear warfare is not only possible but desirable; his racist knockers on his chest, gets so tangled in racism and sexism that he becomes the victim of his own jokes.

He offers a patchwork performance of bright, raw comedy, but perhaps the time has come to tighten it. In the meantime, all manner of seemingly natural state at the chilly Young Vic Studio.

Guarneri Quartet Queen Elizabeth Hall

ment, which became almost an aria for Mr Steinhardt, with the long notes gaining their substance slowly and the ornaments all made up of individual. But the same kind of solitary lyricism was even more apt in the slow first movement of Berg's quartet, Op. 3, and now joined by a sparkling variety of special effects from all players, in an intensely wrought account of its second and final movement. This was a performance of quite extraordinary clarity, and one to show the piece fully as dramatic as the later *Lyric Suite*.

In the first of Beethoven's "Rasumovsky" quartets the Guarneri's intimate, feeling gracefulness began to seem wispy and pressured. It was not without interest to discover how they spirited away anything that might appear wispy, uncouth or strained most remarkably in the second movement, but any Beethoven performance that skates over the roughness must be only partial, and perhaps that was why, despite all their exequial, they enjoyed the exaltation of the adagio.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

The three current exhibitions in the British Museum's Gallery of Prints and Drawings close on January 18 and not April 20 as stated in yesterday's review.



STARTS TOMORROW Leicester Square Theatre
SEPARATE PROGRAMMES. Doors open daily, incl Sat, 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm.
All seats bookable for last prog Mon-Fri. All progs bookable Sat & Sun

MAKE ALL POSSIBLE SPEED TO THIS EXTRAORDINARY MUSICAL THRILLER, WITH EVIL BANKERS, SINGING POLICEMEN, GOOD GUYS, BAD GUYS, AMAZING ESCAPES, ROMANCE, RICHES AND ROUNDS OF LAUGHTER, AND WHERE THE AUDIENCE ALWAYS JOINS IN!!

RAH RAH RAH! BOOOO! THUMPING GOOD TIMES! AMAZING! NOW

THE STREETS OF LONDON

Roars of Approval from The Whole Theatre Cheered

PRACTICE BUSSING AND BOOK NOW!

Her Majesty's Theatre 01-930 6606
Special low prices for Parties 01-379 6061

Book review

Bernini and the Unity of the Visual Arts By Irving Lavin

(Oxford & Pierpont Morgan Library, 2 vols, £45)

As the visitor to the church of Santa Maria della Vittoria in Rome is walking down the nave his glance is suddenly caught by the gaze of an animated sculptured figure in the right-hand wall of the chapel to the left; he is, in fact, the donor of the chapel that bears his name, Cornaro. Nearer the chancel, the Cardinals' companions in their stage box or balcony and another group of men opposite are seen to be

engaged in debate, in reading or in watching the sculptured event beneath the altar tabernacle. There a smiling, joyous angel delicately pulls aside the garments of St Teresa prior to plunging his golden arrow into her breast. The saint herself receives this manifestation of divine love with closed eyes, partly relaxed (her hands are limp), partly in a kind of parody of the *Ecce homo* (her abdomen is tightly contracted). The cherub's gesture also seems to lift the saint bodily upwards, from the cloud where she reclines towards the effulgent light that descends in straight rays—relief of the Last Supper: on the floor, as if emerging from below, come gesticulating and ecstatic skeletons; in the vault above are visions that

descend into the chapel space and at the point where the chapel vault joins the church an arc of angels display a scroll with the marvellous legend, "If I had not created heaven I would create it for you alone."

It is this magnificent work by Gian Lorenzo Bernini, begun in the late 1640s, that provides the occasion for Professor Irving Lavin's book. The Cornaro Chapel is placed in the larger context of Bernini's other chapel designs, notably the Ramondini Chapel in San Pietro in Montorio and the Confession of St Francesca Romana in Santa Maria Nova, and other isolated works like the sculpture of Truth in the Galleria Borghese. We learn to read the formal attempts to manipulate sculpture, architecture,

polychromatic decoration and painting into some unity in these other works before registering the extraordinary *bel composto* into which he drew all those elements in the Cornaro Chapel.

But Professor Lavin has himself larger unities to pursue. What makes such an exciting study is the gradual progress by which we are led to appreciate not only the formal delights of Bernini's work but the intricate fusion of form and meaning. The Cornaro Chapel is explained as enunciating the process of salvation, through which the church, St Teresa, Federico Cornaro and his family, and the chapel visitor (representative of all mankind) are themselves united. Bernini's imagination, however, pre-

sented these habitual emphases of the church, not in symbolic terms, but in what Professor Lavin calls "a kind of existential happening, taking place here and now."

It is, on the one hand, a book by a scholar for others, who will or should be hugely in his debt. And if one has scepticisms, they are that the author is occasionally too brief, too reliant upon our unwavering attention to his discussion. But on the other hand it offers the less specialized reader the information and, above all, the imaginative guidance that is needed to appreciate Bernini's achievement. It provides, too, the ingredients for a tour of Renaissance and Baroque Rome culminating in Bernini's masterwork; it is highly recommended reading

for the intending visitor, who will find in the late Angelo Carlini's wonderful photographs of the saint and angel an intimation of that created "heaven" which almost passes belief.

Bernini has often been praised, with the dubious accolade of "theatrical". Now we can see, via a last chapter on "Bernini and the Theatre", just how theatrical he was in the Cornaro Chapel: expected illusions are made real, the theatre of the world involves the spectator in a wholeness or totality (for which "theatre" was a word often invoked), and—as that splendid inscription declares—God is himself the ultimate producer.

John Dixon Hunt

Bernard Levin

The true heroes of the Soviet Union



Mr. Evgeny Yakir: a courageous symbol.

The news from the Soviet Union is about as bad as it could be. It is clear that just as the authorities have determined to crush the dissident movement entirely if they can, by terrorizing, incarcerating or driving abroad all those who defy them in the name of law and justice, so it is no less plain that they are also resolved on putting an end to any further increase in the numbers of those who are willing to risk everything to emigrate from the Soviet Union. In 1979 there had been a huge increase in the numbers of those applying for permission to leave. It is worth repeating once more that both Soviet law and the Declaration on Human Rights, which the Soviet Union has ratified, include provisions for unhindered emigration; obviously, the Soviet rulers have come to the conclusion that if the movement is not crushed out of existence it will go on growing until it infects the whole country.

They had already devised a new tactic for making intolerable the lives of those applying for permission to leave: in addition to the routine sack of the applicant from his job, and the driving from schools and universities of his children, together with constant surveillance and harassment of the entire family, a further refinement of psychological torture has been added. After an applicant has filed his request to leave, the authorities, instead of refusing it, simply ignore it; he and his family suffer the consequences of the application, but are not even told that it has been refused.

Some applicants have now been waiting 18 months without being given any intimation of whether they will one day be allowed out or whether their application has been formally refused. This means that a considerable backlog has built up; I have some figures which combine those in this position with those who have been told that they will not be allowed out. In Moscow alone, there

are 20,000 people in such a plight: in Leningrad there are 10,000, in Kiev 7,000, in Odessa 3,000 to 4,000, in Kharkov 3,000. (And these figures, of course, represent only those applicants whom my informants know about.)

The news from Kharkov is particularly ominous. Emigration visas have hitherto normally been granted only on proof that the applicants have relatives living abroad with whom they wish to be reunited and on production by the applicant of an invitation to join these. Now, even when proof of close relationships is provided, the emigration office has taken to refusing permission on the manifestly false ground of "insufficient knowledge" or "no reasons for emigration"; worse, the essential invitations from abroad are not being delivered.

Meanwhile, official Soviet anti-Semitism increases. Obviously, one of the ways in which Soviet Jews who wish to emigrate keep themselves as well as their faith alive is by studying and teaching their religion and the Hebrew language. I have written before about the suppression of Hebrew and of the study of Judaism; two characteristic instances of this

policy took place last month. In one, a Jew called Uri Khoshorsky, who gives private tuition in Hebrew and religious studies (both to keep the knowledge in being and to eke out a living), was on his way to a pupil when he was arrested by the KGB. He was interrogated, and warned of the "serious consequences" of failing to obey previous orders to desist from such teaching. He was threatened with imprisonment; the questioning continued until after the expiry of the time for the lesson he was on his way to give. Pupils of Khoshorsky, and of another such tutor, Mr. Essas, have been warned against their teachers by KGB officials, who tell them that they are in danger of being corrupted by studying with men who are ideologically unfit to teach.

Suiting their actions to their threats, the KGB broke up a class studying the Talmud with Essas in his home, incidentally; they were told that the meeting was illegal, being an unauthorized group and/or a religious gathering.

There are worse cases than those. One is that of the Vavark family of Kiev. Mr. Vavark, a mathematician, is a chronic invalid, suffering from a very severe form of diabetes; for one period of six months he was unable to obtain any medicine. The Vavarks applied three years ago for permission to emigrate; they have undergone the standard forms of persecution for those wishing to leave the Soviet Union—work, seizure of correspondence from abroad, and the like—but in their case there has been more. The KGB made it clear that Mrs. Vavark would be taken to a psychiatric hospital and that the Vavarks' children would be taken away from them.

On November 10 last year, an ambulance arrived at their home; Mr. Vavark was at that time in hospital. The KGB men demanded that Mrs. Vavark come with them. They repeated the threat to deprive the Vavarks of their children, and her "voluntary" consent to the matter was taken as a madhouse and you will stay there all your life." They then tried to drag the children away; Mrs. Vavark screamed for help, and a crowd collected. The men continued to try to force her and the children to go with them. After a

time, embarrassed by the number of witnesses, they left. Mrs. Vavark telephoned the hospital where her husband was, and he returned home. Later the same day, the KGB men returned and again demanded that the Vavarks should go with them; the Vavarks and their friends insisted that the KGB men should show their identity cards, and after further argument they refused to do so and left.

So it goes on. Of course, the Soviet rulers are fighting the Hydra; the latest issue of the chief samizdat journal, *Chronicle of Current Events*, lists scores of names hitherto unknown in the world of dissent, and the civil rights movement and the constitution specifically provide for, and I have no doubt that in both the civil rights movement and the emigration movement the increasing repression and means that in the long run, more resistance will be provoked, not less. (As far as the emigration movement is concerned, since even Jews who have not expressed a wish to emigrate are increasingly discriminated against, in e.g., education and employment, on "straightforwardly anti-Semitic grounds, more and more of them must inevitably come to the conclusion that since they suffer from being loyal Soviet Jews they might as well leave if they can.) But in the short run, of course, the repression must inevitably have its intended effect, and the most amazing and heartening aspect of the whole story is that in the face of persecution instead of allowing themselves to be crushed by it, tomorrow, I shall write about the most notable of recent Jewish victims, whose case is itself a sufficient indication of the sinister developments I have described: today, I shall conclude with a word about an individual who, though he does not have the international reputation of Dr. Brailovsky, is in some ways a hideously symbolic figure.

He is Evgeny Yakir, and he is a symbol of the unchanging nature of Soviet tyranny because he is both the son of Colonel Yakir and the nephew of General Piotr Yakir, both of them heroes of the Revolution. Evgeny's

father also fought in the Spanish Civil War and was killed after he returned to the Soviet Union; Evgeny's uncle, the General, one of the five leading generals in the Red Army, was one of those loyal Soviet commanders murdered by Stalin after trials more horrible, in the utterly impossible crimes the defendants were accused of and made to confess to, than even the show trials of Stalin's civilian associates. A far-off glimpse of the world of madness and cruelty in which Evgeny Yakir was born and in which his father died can be caught in this excerpt from Robert Conquest's monumental classic on the Stalin Purges, *The Great Terror*:

"I sent a letter to Stalin from his prison cell, assuring him of his complete innocence. He wrote: 'My entire conscious life has been spent working selflessly and honestly in full view of the Party and its leaders. . . Every word I say is honest, and I shall die with words of love for you, the Party, and the country, with boundless faith in the victory of Communism.'"

Stalin wrote on this letter: "Scoundrel and prostitute." Voroshilov added: "A perfectly accurate description." Molotov put his name to this and Kaganovich appended: "For the traitor and scum one punishment—the death sentence." In 1937, when Evgeny's father and uncle were killed, he was seven years old; his mother was sent to a Siberian concentration camp from which she emerged only in 1945 (Evgeny had been brought up by relatives). She is still not finished with the Yakir family; Evgeny, now an expert in hydrodynamics, hydrostatics and oil hydraulics, was working at the Soviet Institute of Applied Mechanics until, in 1973, he applied for permission to leave the country. It was refused; he was immediately sacked; and for seven years he has been unable to earn his living in his own country and forbidden to seek it in another. But if the destroyers of the Yakirs are consistent, the family is no less consistent in its turn. It was Mr. Yakir's uncle who said: "Evgeny retains his cheerfulness, ebullience and courage." (To be concluded)

© Times Newspapers Limited, 1981

The endless competition for the countryside

Because of the triangular relationship between British farming, the conservationist lobby and Government, the Wildlife and Countryside Bill, which has had a second reading in the Lords, cannot be expected to solve all the problems. In the debate, Lord Walston pointed out that our countryside is the product of farming and we have no right to say it must not be changed. Inevitably, however, there is competition for use of the countryside between the development of agriculture and the preservation of flora and fauna.

The treatment of pasture with fertilizers or herbicides tends to have deleterious effects on wildlife, which has become increasingly dependent on the remaining uncultivated areas of woodland and moor, high mountain tops and undrained land. There have been heavy losses of hedgerows, destroying habitat.

Simply to urge that these practices should be "stopped" is to miss the point. Farming has to be produced at an acceptable price to consumers, and modern farming needs large arable areas for economic operation. The countryside cannot be fossilized into a pastoral world of nymphs and shepherds.

Fortunately, farmers are often conservationists, by temperament and through self-interest. But there are other competitors fighting for rural land use, city dwellers who want a share for recreation; who are slow to recognize that their playground is others' work-place; who regard farmers' bulls as trespassers on their footpaths; who understandably want the blessed relief from arid towns that green fields can offer.

In order to control these multiple pressures, successive governments have made some attempt towards a rural use strategy, in which selectivity is a key factor. The best areas are to be preserved even at the cost of downgrading the rest. The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as successively amended), has established National Nature Reserves (NNRs), and some 3,535 sites of special scientific interest covering 1,230,000 hectares, that is, 5.3 per cent of the total land surface of Great Britain. Planning regulations ensure that no site development may occur without owner and planning authority being notified; and that these selected areas are managed primarily for conservation, with Nature Conservancy Council grants to finance research projects. A broad range of advisory and consultative services is available via the Nature Conservancy Council, the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and the Agricultural Development and Advisory Services of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Is not all this enough? Dear me, no! The current Bill extends the system. The Secretary of State, on advice from the Nature Conservancy Council, will be able henceforth to designate selected areas, the owner or occupier of which will have to notify the Council of changes which might destroy natural features or harm wildlife. Orders can be made on the

basis of a particular species, geological or physiographical features. There is to be an appeal procedure against Orders, and another procedure encouraging Council and owner to enter into management agreements so that land can be utilized with conservation features in mind. As a last resort, the Council will have compulsory purchase powers.

In sites of special scientific interest, economic considerations are subordinate to conservation; for example the capital grant process is inhibited by the need to take conservation into account. It is not proposed to pay any compensation simply for loss of capital value as a result of land being subject to an Order, but expenditure rendered abortive by an Order is to be reimbursed. In fact, private owners seek compensation, but assurance that they will be able to pass on land intact to the next generation, for whom they see themselves as stewards or quasi-trustees. What they urgently need is relief from capital tax . . . the biggest threat.

There is an obvious precedent: the carefully planned form of bargain between owners and State introduced to preserve the National Heritage. The active and thriving Heritage lobby has fought a long and won a long battle against the deferral—not cancellation—of capital taxes on statelike homes, gardens, contents and surrounding land in return for promises to maintain for posterity and grant public access. Tax-free endowment funds can also be set up.

Under this system, now made workable by Finance Act 1980, land of "outstanding scenic, historic or scientific interest" can be "designated" by HM Treasury in advance of a particular transfer, so conferring tax relief. A very high standard is required, e.g. land in a national park or area of outstanding natural beauty. For scientific land, it is accepted that only limited access may be desirable.

So far access has been crucial in the tax bargain; it is what the State wants the tax yield foregone, and which it passes on to the city-dweller as his share of the spoils. That seems fair enough, since high capital taxes and land values make tax relief a tasty and effective carrot to entice. A key to tax deferral carries useful sanctions. If an owner fails to keep his bargain, a demand is presented to him for what he would have paid if the bargain had never been struck.

Is this all that is to be accepted as a valid mechanism to preserve our countryside, more remains to be done. More streamlined procedures and practices are needed, so that owners will know in advance whether the tests will be satisfied or not. The current Bill, designation is initiated by government; for tax purposes, designation is initiated by the owner. In general, the criteria for different kinds of "designation" need to be fully aligned, and the public process needs to be published. Three government departments will be involved. Environment, Agriculture and Revenue, and all will need to work together.

Oliver Stanley

The author is Chief Taxation Adviser to the Country Landowners' Association.

Richard Dowden on the tangled roots of the civil war in El Salvador

Where security can be a deadly word

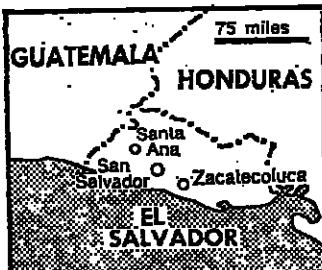
As the persistent fever of political assassinations breaks into open civil war in El Salvador, the country has begun to be noticed by the world's media. Last year, despite some 10,000 violent deaths in the tiny Central American state, it was hardly ever mentioned.

El Salvador is slightly larger than Wales but it is densely populated with 5.5 million people. Nearly three quarters of the land is owned by an oligarchy known as "the 14 families". Land is given over to export crops such as coffee—a policy which creates a mass of landless destitute peasants.

According to 1976 United Nations statistics 75 per cent of Salvadoran children under five years old, suffer from malnutrition, 63 per cent of the population lack clean water, unemployment runs at 50 per cent and 90 per cent of the population earn less than \$50 a year.

The murderous civil war in the country has frequently been presented in the media as a battle between "left" and "right" which the "moderate" reformist junta and the army are unable to control.

It is true that at each end of the political spectrum there are avowed Marxists and fascists but it is not only the extremists who are doing the killing or deliberately making political gains from them. The civil war involves the whole country.



When the Government of President Carlos Humberto Romero was overthrown in October 1979 it was replaced by a junta which was described by one of its military members, Colonel Adolfo Majano, as "moderate left". It certainly included a broad spectrum of political views and carried with it the hopes for land and social reform. The United States recognized it and offered assistance in implementing the land reform programme.

Within four months 19 cabinet ministers, 10 heads of government agencies and four out of the five supreme court judges professed their resignations. The issue was the lack of progress on reform and the continued killings by the security forces which the Government seemed powerless to stop.

A new junta was formed from the rump of the Christian Democrats and the military at the beginning of 1980 but in the first four months of the

year the number of killings exceeded the 1979 total. The independents, communists, social democrats and the moderate Christian democrats formed the Frente Democratico Revolucionario, the FDR, an umbrella opposition group. Its military counterpart, formed from four guerrilla groups, is the Fuerza Armada Revolucionaria, the FAR, which accepts the political leadership of the FDR. With the recent ousting of Colonel Majano from the junta, the last reforming elements in the army have been purged, and have joined the democratic political groups in opposition.

But the seagull has not tipped because the army has retained power by force. It is now led by Colonel Jaime

Abdul Gutierrez who has also been made Vice President to the Christian Democrat President Napoleon Duarte, an intellectual figurehead who was installed on December 14. The Government, the army and the death squads are now parts of a seamless cloak of repression. The Government denounces the death squads but is unable to make the army control them. It seems unwilling or unable to purge the security forces of members of the death squads or those who are sympathetic to them.

The evidence collected by Catholic priests, nuns and Church workers has led the Socorro Juridico, the legal aid office of the Archdiocese of San Salvador, to conclude that 50 per cent of the killings which took place last year were assassinations of unarmed civilians by the security forces. Archbishop Oscar Romero spoke out continually against this arbitrary killing, a stand which led to his own assassination in March last year. Just before he was murdered, he said that repression against the people had increased tremendously. "Armed troops search farm houses, burn peasants' belongings and kill people. There is a clear programme

aimed at destroying the popular organizations. Leaders of unions and other popular organizations are being systematically persecuted. As his own funeral more than thirty people died. The official version said that there were no troops in the vicinity of the Cathedral at the time. The entire body of visiting bishops, presiding at the funeral denied this and they saw several troops near the Cathedral.

Again, the statement of the Maryknoll sisters, the Catholic missionary order, four of whose members were murdered on December 4, repudiated the government version of their deaths and said that there was "a high probability that the security forces were involved in the deaths of these four women".

These are the cases which have already appeared in the world's press but the Socorro Juridico has collected evidence of thousands of other killings involving security forces. Local advocates and organizers of the land reform programme, identified frequently by elections, are frequently arrested, taken away and shot, sometimes after being mutilated by torture.

The United States, unwilling to see another Central American state follow the same path as Nicaragua, is supporting the government of El Salvador with aid, 90m dollars worth in 1980. Although it has recently cut off military aid, it supplies military advisers and indirectly trains Salvadoran soldiers in Panama.

It has tried to find a third way between the guerrillas and the oligarchy—a third way which seems not to exist.

On December 10 the FMNL launched an all-out attack on rural areas hoping to bring down the government before Ronald Reagan becomes President of the United States on January 20.

This campaign is now reaching a crescendo. Although the United States is unlikely to intervene militarily, the Reagan administration will probably increase aid to the government, restore military aid and may countenance or even encourage other Central American governments to lend their troops to the Salvadoran government. The country is now entering a full civil war which is unlikely to end until a government emerges which can control the army.

THE UNITED STATES

Whether, this year, you are travelling in them, or to them, or back to them, they will be written about with your journeying and pleasure in mind on January 30th.

If, on the other hand, you wish to advertise to the many prospective Times' travellers, it would be wise to make your arrangements immediately. In London, speak to Danne Maddison on 01-837 1234 ext 7498. In New York, speak to Rosemary Vlasto on (212) 986 9230.

TRAVEL IN THE USA A Special Report

And first by a mere 24 hours...

Wrath and indignation has descended from many quarters following my speculations in this space last Sunday on which was actually the first day of the week. Many readers have directed me, not always in tones of Christian charity, to the Book of Genesis, which they say gives irrefutable proof that God started making the world on a Sunday.

Well, it doesn't. No starting time, day or date is given by the reporter who wrote the Old Testament's lead story. It is merely tradition which dictates when our week should begin. Tradition, at least among publishers of diaries, is moving heavily in favour of Mondays, which as you may recall is how this earnest debate began.

I have taken advice from the Board of Deputies of British Jews, whose week undoubtedly begins on a Sunday, and who of all people ought to know why secure Christians have no mention of days of the week in Genesis, they assured me "The Jewish Sabbath was not fixed until the fourth century, and it is tradition rather than evidence which has fixed it on a Saturday."

As inventors of the Sabbath, Jews naturally use diaries which begin on Sunday, which is regarded as a normal working day in Israel. The Chief Rabbi's office also mentioned in passing, but with some pride, that the Conservative Party has moved its annual conference back a week this year to avoid a clash with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, on October 8.

Christians celebrate their day of rest on Sundays, partly in commemoration of the Resurrection but also because the earliest Christians, who were Jews, had an extra day of prayer after the traditional Sabbath.

Pick and palette

Miners are a romantic bunch who view with nostalgia the bad old days of pit ponies, dust and the winning of coal by pick and shovel. At least that is the impression given by the entries in the miners' annual painting competition, on show at the National Coal Board's London headquarters in Grosvenor Place until Friday.

For the most part, however, although they are no longer in regular use at NCB pits, scruffy old wood-strewn pitheads, back-to-back cottages in Durham mining villages, and even a racy pastoral scene of a pithead of the early 1800s, all hark back to an earlier age when low wages and high risk forced the strong community spirit which still sets miners as a race apart.

Jack Reading, the contest organizer, told me: "Most miner artists get nostalgic about the old times. What they really want is a photograph of a miner in a modern setting. Perhaps, significantly, the £500 first prize went to David Wharton, a fitter on the coal face at Gedling colliery near Nottingham who painted his mates—and himself—emerging victorious from the cage after being the first shift to cut 1,000 metres of Gedling coal at one crouching. Wharton was the award given under the noses of a number of outsiders, including professional artists. The winning picture was entered for the first time this year, and is like the famous 'Ashington' group of miner artists of the

thirties who learned the basics of their craft through the Workers' Educational Association. Wharton is largely self-taught, and has a few evening classes to learn the ground rules of technique. The Ashington paintings now hang in the NCB staff college at Longbenton, Northumberland. Perhaps Wharton's canvas should hang in Sir Keith Joseph's office to remind him that we have at least one reasonably efficient and successful nationalized industry.

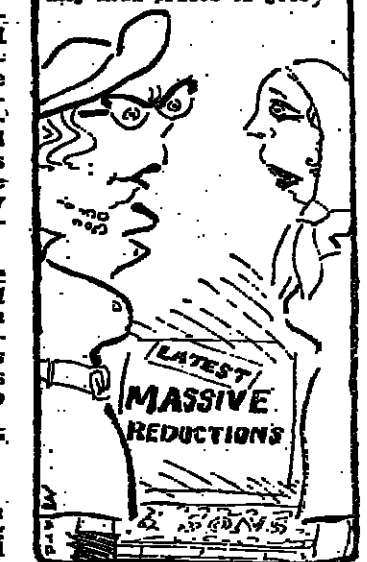
My apologies to Richard Seifert, the architect, to whom I mistakenly awarded a knight-hood in yesterday's edition. His open-plan design for The Times office cannot be conducive to concentration.

Lean time

Should you be walking in a state of perfect sobriety along Bridge Street, Westminster, and happen to glance up at Big Ben with the distinct impression that it is leaning over, do not under any circumstances panic. Your eyes no do deceive you. The Department of the Environment confirm that the clock tower is leaning 15 inches to the north-west. But that is not all; the great square of the Palace of Westminster, is leaning 15 inches to the south-west. Indeed a great deal of London is off the level. The Department of the Environment confirm that the City inclines 12 inches to the south-south-west. But allow me to inject a sense of proportion by reminding you that the Leaning Tower of Pisa is no less than 14 feet out of true at the top.

St Paul's Cathedral, I gather, is still pointing more or less the right way up, but it is rising and falling. The main piers supporting the dome are pressing into the blue clay below at a slightly inward angle, forcing the dome upwards. At the same time other parts of the building are sinking

"I never know nowadays if they mean prices or jobs"



slowly into the subsoil. A short distance to the east, a corner of the Bank of England has gone down seven inches in the last 70 years, and the Tower of London, while not sinking nor rising to any appreciable degree, is moving minutely away from the Thames.

It all has to do with geology; London is gradually settling into its bed of clay, while at the same time the whole of south-east England is tilting into the sea, a fact which is almost certain to make the hugely expensive Thames flood barrier obsolete before the twenty-first century is very old.

Peak condition

As this is the International Year of the Disabled, I shall tell you about Norman Croucher, before he departs for the Andes to climb Aconcagua (22,832 feet).

Croucher, who makes a habit of climbing unpropagable South American peaks despite having two artificial legs, has

very confirmed views about how newspapers report the achievements of disabled people. They should be portrayed, he says, as wooden legs, and all. His approach, which has some relevance in this particular year, is that goggle-eyed, rosy-rimmed, legless-man-climbs-Andes media coverage sets the disabled apart and does them a disservice. "It is my own fault, entirely," he says. He should know; he has had his own fair share of it.

He lost his legs from the knees downwards 21 years ago at the age of 19 but was lucky, he says, that the knee joints were preserved. Two years ago he led an expedition to the Andes, one of the highest Andean peaks at 21,830 feet, and this year he is taking part in two more climbs to promote the Disabled Sports Foundation, of which he is an adviser, and the British Sports Association for the Disabled, which is short of volunteers to co-ordinate its work.

Apparently some of the less expensive newspapers, which do not like their idle to have feet of clay, are reticent about mentioning the precise circumstances which created his disability, and about which he is perfectly forthright. "It fell in front of a train when I was drunk." No doubt at all; he's one of us.

A researcher from the Institute of Psychiatry has been handing out questionnaires to all members of the editorial staff of this newspaper to discover whether, in view of the stress associated with our uncertain future, the little yellow van should be sent for. After numerous questions about loss of sleep and the hopelessness of life, we are asked how many times in the last week you have drunk eight or more measures of spirits at a sitting. The consensus of opinion is: "Not nearly enough."

Alan Harrington



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

COLONEL GADDAFI'S LEBENSRAUM

Lord Carrington was clearly right to condemn the Libyan occupation of Chad during his visit to Morocco. The expansionist ambitions of the Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, pose a threat to the stability of North and West Africa, and by extension to the Middle East.

On the face of it, it is true, Colonel Gaddafi's men intervened in Chad in order to lend the Government of President Goukouni Oueddei a helping hand in defeating the rebels led by the former Defence Minister, Hissene Habre. A month ago the Libyan intervention tilted the balance, and the capital, Njamena, passed from rebel control back to the Government. Far from withdrawing, subsequently, however, Colonel Gaddafi has dug in, and according to some reports has reinforced the estimated 4,000 strong force (equipped with tanks and artillery) which he sent to President Oueddei's aid. Last week the Libyan leader announced that Libya and Chad had "merged", a move which to all intents and purposes is a Libyan annexation of Chad in disguise.

The record of Libya's "mergers" with other states has not been a successful one. The most recent venture of the kind—the "union" with Syria—seems to be foundering on the difficulties involved in reconciling two countries with strong-willed leaders and differing political systems. Syria is in any case geographically separated from Libya by over a thousand miles. Chad, however, is both next door to Libya and internally weak, and the Libyan-Chad "merger" has caused considerable anxiety in other neighbouring states.

Libya is bounded directly not only by Chad, but also by Niger, the Sudan, as well as Tunisia and Algeria. Control of Chad will give Colonel Gaddafi further access to Nigeria, Cameroon, and the Central African Republic. Much of the territory in question is little more than a desert, but judging from maps published in Tripoli, the Libyan leader is nonetheless aiming at an Islamic Saharan Republic under his

tutelage. Besides, the region is not without resources—Niger, for example, is rich in uranium.

The states of North and West Africa clearly believe that the Libyans are not likely to stop at Chad. Nigeria has complained for some time of Libyan interference in its affairs, and particularly represents the open recruitment by Libya of Moslems from Northern Nigeria to fight for it in the Chadian civil war. Relations between Tripoli and Lagos recently reached breaking point, and the Libyan Ambassador to Nigeria was expelled when the Libyans turned their Lagos Embassy into a "Peoples Bureau", one of the practices which has earned Colonel Gaddafi his reputation as a man whose policies are often daft as well as dangerous.

The expulsion of ambassadors, on the other hand, is not a step which is likely to deter Libyan ambition, and although Nigeria (as an oil-producing state of some size) carries weight in the region, most of the countries concerned are so small—and often so divided internally—that they can be taken over and controlled by a limited military force. The power best placed to prevent this happening is France, which has traditional interests in the area, and was once the principal colonial power.

France already has troops stationed in East Africa—in Senegal, Gabon and the Ivory Coast, and is now actively considering sending units to Niger to guard the uranium mines which supply France's nuclear industry. This week more French marines and paratroopers were sent to reinforce France's largest West African force, in the Central African Republic, bringing the total French combat strength there to 2,000 or so. France and Libya have previously crossed swords over the Central African Republic (formerly the Central African Empire). In 1979, French troops deposed the self-proclaimed Emperor Bokassa, despite Colonel Gaddafi's attempts to keep him in power. The French Government has condemned Libya's takeover of Chad as "a threat to the security

of Africa", and evidently regards the Central African Republic as Libya's next likely target. France has also sent a military mission to Khartoum to discuss an increase in its level of aid to the Sudan.

On the other hand, France is understandably reluctant to intervene directly, unless asked to do so. In Chad, France backed the rebel forces with both words and weapons, but short of committing its own forces, was unable to prevent the defeat of the pro-French rebels (a setback which has been roundly criticized in the French press). To make matters worse, on the day France attacked Colonel Gaddafi for his merger with Chad, the state-owned oil company Elf-Aquitaine signed several oil exploration agreements with Libya, leaving embarrassed Government officials to explain that they had not been consulted, and did not approve.

In the final analysis, it will be for the African states themselves to resist the Libyan advance, if necessary with the backing of French military muscle. African heads of state have been meeting in Lome under the chairmanship of President Sika Stevens of Sierra Leone, the current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity. It was the OAU—or rather, the six member countries most directly concerned, Libya, Sudan, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria—which worked out a ceasefire formula for Chad in Lagos last year.

Since the Libyan Foreign Minister, Ali Abdesslem Tliti, is attending the Lome meeting, the OAU has an opportunity to take Libya to task, as well as to reiterate its support for the Lagos agreements. It can also stress the need for national unity in member states. In Chad, after all, there are at least eleven warring factions, some Moslem (from the North), some Christian (from the South), and some a mixture of the two. Given their vulnerability, and the predatory nature of their more powerful Libyan neighbour, civil strife is a luxury which the smaller African states cannot afford.

A DIFFICULT POST TO FILL

The sudden death of Mr Gundelach is a further blow to the new European Commission, which had already run into difficulties last week over the allocation of responsibilities. A further decision will now be required on the question of who should take over the important sector of agriculture, looked after by Mr Gundelach with some distinction for the past four years. The Danish government has made it clear that it expects its own nominee, who will take Mr Gundelach's place in the Commission, to get the agriculture job too; but that is not a foregone conclusion. Agriculture is bound to be a sought-after job, and a new balance will have to be struck inside the Commission when Mr Gundelach's successor is known.

Whoever he is, the Commissioner who now takes over agriculture will have to plunge straight into the thick of things. The Commission's proposals for prices for the next farming year—always the beginning of a difficult tussle—are due soon, and had been expected by the end of this month. Then there is the all-important question of the reform of the Community budget,

on which the Commission has to make proposals by the middle of the year. Reform of the budget spending inevitably means an attempt to control spending on agriculture which takes up some 70 per cent, and increase spending in other areas. So Mr Gundelach's successor in the agricultural job, who may not have Mr Gundelach's approach to the subject, will be in a key position as the Commission prepares its ideas.

Mr Gundelach's own record was that of a defender of the basic principles of the common agricultural policy—the granting of preference to producers from member countries, a common price system backed by intervention buying, and joint financial responsibility. But he, more than his predecessors in the job, was aware that the policy was not working well in practice, as was shown by the huge and costly surpluses that have accumulated—and by the fact that though the bigger farmers have done well out of it, it has done little for the small ones. In recent years the Commission has tried to hold down price increases and has made proposals

for curbing overproduction. Some have been accepted, but all too often they have been swept aside by the Ministers of Agriculture, whose prime concern has been the pressure from farming lobbies in their own countries.

The situation has been changed by the prospect that the Community will soon reach the limit of the resources available to it, and so cannot continue to increase its spending as it has in the past. At the same time Britain, which suffers most from the agricultural policy, has said that it does not challenge the basic principles as such. So some way has to be found to reform the actual working of the policy, possibly by limiting quantities that are given unlimited price guarantees, possibly by shifting some of the burden of support from the Community budget to national exchequers, possibly by setting prices at a level which would be adequate for efficient farmers and providing support through other means for the inefficient. Means can be found if the political will is there, and it will be up to the Commission, including Mr Gundelach's successor, to take the initiative.

Drinking and driving

From the Chief Constable of Warwickshire
Sir, In its forthcoming debate on those clauses of the Transport Bill which relate to drinking and driving, Parliament will once more be considering the delicate balance between the liberty of the individual and restrictions of that liberty which may be necessary to improve road safety.

The Bill contains much which will appeal to police and to the motorist. The introduction of electronic breath analysis machines for use at police stations will largely replace the need for blood or urine samples thereby removing from the procedure much which is distasteful to the motorist and the police alike, as well as eliminating the present time lapse between taking a specimen and obtaining the results of laboratory analysis. A new electronic device for roadside screening tests, already tried, tested and approved, will enable police to warn a driver that he is close to the limit and should therefore proceed with caution.

The test of the Bill in the context of drinking and driving is quite simply whether the new proposals will enable the police to operate more effectively over a lasting period. It is no secret that a majority of chief constables would have welcomed some additional deterrent powers, for example, a provision enabling a senior officer with a responsibility for a police area, at his discretion, to set up in that area properly coordinated and supervised checks aimed at the drinking driver at locations and at times where accident statistics would clearly justify such a course of action.

This, I suggest, would be removed from giving unqualified power to each and every constable to carry out tests at will and where he chooses and without good reason, in other words at random. But it seems that the decision in this area has been taken and it is not for police to enter the political arena.

One aspect of the Bill which the police view with grave misgivings, which my association has passed on by way of letter to the Home Secretary, is the section which will exclude an officer from requiring a specimen of breath while the constable is in possession of a place from which that person is entitled to exclude him. Such provision will effectively extend the sanctity of an Englishman's home to an absurd degree, limiting the pockets of the law into the bargain and the scope for legal debate will be limitless.

If the clause becomes law a suspect driver impaired through drink, perhaps being pursued by police after a non-stop accident, will be able to avoid the consequences of his actions by taking refuge, for example, at his golf club, in his warehouse or even in his field if he happens to own one. Surely the matter of police intrusion on personal liberty in this regard could be left to the wisdom of her Majesty's judges rather than providing statutory encouragement for an inspired driver to race for the nearest haven, probably endangering himself and other road users in the process.

The findings of the recently published *Sunday Times* opinion poll (December 28, 1980) merely confirm my belief, shared by many of my colleagues, that a very large percentage of the motoring public, all too well aware of their chances of being involved as an innocent party in an accident, are now anxious to improve their prospects of survival by strengthening the powers of the police in such a way that they are able to deal more effectively with the motorist whose ability to drive is impaired through drink.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER BIRCH, Chief Constable, Warwickshire, Traffic Committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers, PO Box No 4, Leek Wootton, Warwick.

The Pope in Britain

From the Reverend A. F. Baker and others

Sir, The basic question at issue with regard to the proposed visit of the Pope to Canterbury is the doctrine enshrined in the Roman Catholic Mass. The saying of such a Mass in Canterbury Cathedral would, we are advised by counsel, constitute an ecclesiastical offence.

We may safely presume that neither the Archbishop of Canterbury nor the Dean would be party to a breach of the law, and therefore the question, raised in *The Times* (December 23), of whether the Pope will be invited to say Mass in the Cathedral cannot in fact arise.

Yours faithfully,
TONY BAKER, Chairman, Law Commission, London House, Oxford.

JOHN PEARCE, Chairman, Church Society, D. N. SAMUEL, General Secretary, Protestant Reformation Society, East Ravendale Rectory, Grimsby, South Humberside.

Hot under collar

From Mr Ivan Mason

Sir, In the good days, when Mr Harold Macmillan was in Downing Street and there was a Naval Officer in Old Bond Street, many of us wore a stiff white collar every working day.

But even then it was expensive and sometimes difficult to get one's collar properly laundered, but in Bond Street one could buy a supply of excellent paper ones matching the best of Irish linen.

These could be reversed on the second day and then used as fire lighters.

Chemical weapons control

From Mr Cyril D. Townsend, MP for Bechyngham (Conservative)

Sir, Your Defence Correspondent admirably described (feature, January 9) both the problems John Nott, our new Secretary of State for Defence, will have in finding savings in Britain's defence estimates for 1981-82 and how in defence terms "the eggs are in too many baskets". May I, therefore, suggest to John Nott that this is not the time to add one new item to our armoury—a capability for offensive chemical warfare. There were grounds for thinking that his outstanding predecessor, Francis Pym, was astounded at the need for such a major policy change.

I do not dispute that there is cause for concern over the Soviet Union's growing capacity for chemical warfare. There have been recent reports that over 15 per cent of their missiles are equipped with chemical ammunition and that some 90,000 Soviet troops are deployed in chemical warfare units. General Sir Walter Walker has stated in your columns:

"Our doctrine regards the tactical use of chemical weapons as a normal form of conventional warfare, and in this field they are better militarily equipped and psychologically prepared than any other country in the world."

Yet as a whole he has chemical weapons available to it as the United States maintains an offensive chemical capability. For many years British governments have not believed it necessary for British forces to stockpile offensive chemical weapons. I well believe that is still the correct decision.

A move by Britain to develop an offensive capability would go right against our long-standing commitment to achieve a form of arms control to prohibit not only the use of chemical weapons but also their possession and to thus extend the 1925 Geneva Protocol. Such a commitment should not be dismissed lightly in this dangerous decade. Britain should continue to develop sophisticated defensive measures against a chemical attack. (As it is, our protective clothing and detection equipment are among the best in the world.)

In short, this is not the time for Britain to be spending money on pursuing a speculative offensive chemical capability. It is time to take the lead in getting an agreement on the control of chemical weapons, and searching for some acceptable form of verification.

Yours faithfully,
CYRIL D. TOWNSEND, House of Commons, January 12.

Lets and hindrances

From Mr John Pomian

Sir, Dr Wilkes (January 8) did a great service in drawing attention to Western red tape obstructing visitors from the north and central regions of the North Sea, where they are vulnerable as a bycatch in the small-meshed nets used for industrial fishing, mainly by countries other than Britain. Again, cod and plaice, make up during their life-cycle of the greater part of the space and basic productivity of the North Sea—spawning in one area, growing up in another, and ranging widely for food as adults.

I can give here just two examples of the consequences. Haddock, a juvenile, spent the summer over a much of the north and central regions of the North Sea, where they are vulnerable as a bycatch in the small-meshed nets used for industrial fishing, mainly by countries other than Britain. Again, cod and plaice, make up during their life-cycle of the greater part of the space and basic productivity of the North Sea—spawning in one area, growing up in another, and ranging widely for food as adults.

Polish curators were invited to come, as international practice requires, to accompany the works of art on their journeys and attend the openings at various museums. They all applied for their British visas at least three, and sometimes five weeks prior to departure. Out of the time individual visits necessitated during the seven months when the exhibition was on display in the British Isles, only in two cases were visas obtained without the need for intervention at departmental level in Whitehall. In one case the visit had to be cancelled altogether because of the delay, and on another a curator was prevented from attending the unpacking of the drawings, as well as the ceremonial opening and civic reception, and could only arrive the day after.

In every other case visas were delivered at the last moment, and the consequent uncertainty caused anxiety and sometimes severe inconvenience. The exhibition took place within the framework of the Anglo-Polish cultural agreement, the aim of which is to promote good will and mutual understanding.

Two departments, the Foreign Office and the Home Office, handle visas for East Europeans. Each points an accusing finger at the other, while the existing regulations provide employment for civil servants who implement them. That is why I was told by my friends in Westminster that virtually nothing gets done.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN POMIAN, 59 Jermyn Street, SW1.

Clear as a bell

From Mr John Kent

Sir, It would be wrong for RSM Britain (February, January 12), to be remembered as the man with loudest voice in the British Army.

He certainly had a voice which carried, distinctly, over long distances, but this was due to a peculiar bell-like quality which his voice possessed, which gave it a melodious resonance which could be heard from afar. He was the only man I ever met to whom the phrase "voice like a bell" was appropriate.

Yours etc,
JOHN KENT, 37 Woodlands Road, Bishop Auckland, County Durham.

Ms Harriet Harman

A letter about the recent contempt case brought by the Home Office against the National Council for Civil Liberties' legal officer, Ms Harriet Harman, referred to a deliberate breach of understanding by her. Ms Harman points out, and we accept, that this was inaccurate. Her good faith was never questioned by the Home Office or by the judge, and there was cover a deliberate breach of understanding by her. Ms Harman points out, and we accept, that this was inaccurate. Her good faith was never questioned by the Home Office or by the judge, and there was cover a deliberate breach of understanding by her.

Ms Harman points out, and we accept, that this was inaccurate. Her good faith was never questioned by the Home Office or by the judge, and there was cover a deliberate breach of understanding by her.

Ms Harman points out, and we accept, that this was inaccurate. Her good faith was never questioned by the Home Office or by the judge, and there was cover a deliberate breach of understanding by her.

Ms Harman points out, and we accept, that this was inaccurate. Her good faith was never questioned by the Home Office or by the judge, and there was cover a deliberate breach of understanding by her.

Ms Harman points out, and we accept, that this was inaccurate. Her good faith was never questioned by the Home Office or by the judge, and there was cover a deliberate breach of understanding by her.

Ms Harman points out, and we accept, that this was inaccurate. Her good faith was never questioned by the Home Office or by the judge, and there was cover a deliberate breach of understanding by her.

Ms Harman points out, and we accept, that this was inaccurate. Her good faith was never questioned by the Home Office or by the judge, and there was cover a deliberate breach of understanding by her.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

National Insurance burden on industry

From the Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry

Sir, It is encouraging to learn from your Political Editor (report, January 13) that the Chancellor intends to go for an "incentive" Budget strategy. It is less encouraging to gather that he has so far not been persuaded that the best incentive for all at this particular time would be a cut in the National Insurance surcharge (NIS).

When this tax was imposed as a "temporary" measure by the former Labour Chancellor, Mr Denis Healey, it was seen then by the Opposition for what it is: a tax on jobs. It affects exports but not imports, thus damaging our international competitiveness against foreign goods at a time when our ability to compete is affected by the strong pound. How "temporary" is "temporary"? And are not the solid reasons advanced against the tax when it was first imposed equally justified now?

No doubt the Chancellor likes it because it is a convenient tax and, on the surface, does not directly affect the retail price index. But only on the surface. In fact, because it raises costs overall, it infiltrates into all prices. If the Chancellor argues that abolishing the tax would cost too much money, then there are certainly good grounds for substantially cutting it as the first step towards phasing it out. A number of our industrial rivals overseas are doing this now—improving their competitiveness and

London University election

From Miss Patricia Rawlings

Sir, I, too, am a recent graduate of London University—so recent that I was to have been awarded my degree by the then Chancellor, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, at the 1980 presentation ceremony at the Albert Hall. This was an occasion for which I and my thousands of fellow graduates, and our families, had been greatly looking forward, as also to the ecclesiastical service at Westminster Cathedral which was to follow the presentation ceremony and which indeed was very much part of the whole day of academic celebrations.

Unfortunately, the date chosen (many months in advance, as these things have to be) was May 14, which turned out to be the TUC's "day of action"; shortly before the day for which I and my fellow graduates had been so eagerly waiting, we each received a letter from the Vice-Chancellor telling us that the whole thing—presentation ceremony and service—had been cancelled because of the "wide-spread disruption" inevitable.

The "day of action" was a disaster from the point of view of the country as a whole and an even bigger one from that of the trade unions movement. It was a perfect example of the kind of ossified thinking represented for so long by Jack Jones, and a symbol of the legacy of industrial backwardness and folly he bequeathed to Britain on his retirement from his trade union post, which had taken place not long before. And now I am asked to vote, in the election of a new Chancellor, for him and all his standards. I shall not.

A final point: in addition to the letter from the Vice-Chancellor announcing the cancellation, we also received one from the Queen Mother herself, expressing her disappointment and regret, with a special word of condolence for our families. If Mr Jones becomes Chancellor and the TUC helps to wreck another presentation ceremony, would he express his regret at what his friends, successors and pupils had managed to achieve?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA RAWLINGS, 53 Eastcastle Street, W1, January 13.

EEC fishing zones

From Mr R. J. H. Beverton, FRS

Sir, Professor Wynne-Edwards's plea (January 2) for a different approach to the EEC fisheries problems will strike a chord of sympathy with all those of us who have watched, in growing desperation, the hitherto fruitless attempts of member countries to reach agreement. His solution, to divide up the EEC area into exclusive national fishing zones so that each country has, in effect, its own back garden to tend is not, however, as attractive as it may seem at first sight.

To enjoy one's own garden and its produce with reasonable assurance for the future, the fence should surround not only the fruit and flowers for harvesting but also the seed stock, the greenhouse and the nursery beds. The distribution of the main fish stocks of the EEC area does not, unfortunately, match such a requirement. The most important species, including haddock, herring, cod and plaice, make up during their life-cycle of the greater part of the space and basic productivity of the North Sea—spawning in one area, growing up in another, and ranging widely for food as adults.

I can give here just two examples of the consequences. Haddock, a juvenile, spent the summer over a much of the north and central regions of the North Sea, where they are vulnerable as a bycatch in the small-meshed nets used for industrial fishing, mainly by countries other than Britain. Again, cod and plaice, make up during their life-cycle of the greater part of the space and basic productivity of the North Sea—spawning in one area, growing up in another, and ranging widely for food as adults.

Opus Dei

From Mr Harry Biggs-Davison

Sir, While intrigued by the tabloid-style revelations of your profile of Opus Dei (January 12), I think it is regrettable that its writers chose not to develop the point that Opus Dei in Britain was registered as a charity with the stated object of advancing Roman Catholicism and of charitable works. For, though I am not a member of Opus Dei and have no intention of becoming one, I have been deeply impressed by the way in which the organization in Britain has gone about its "stated object".

While it was correctly pointed out in the profile that residential accommodation and educational facilities for university students are provided

at Netherhall House, and these are not confined to Opus Dei members or even Catholics, it should be added that the various halls of residence have a specific formal character designed to encourage a Christian spirit of service.

The splendidly run boys' clubs and the help given to the old, the sick and lonely in hospitals and homes around the various halls of residence in London, Manchester and Oxford are simple but impressive examples of the practical Christian values fostered by Opus Dei in this country. It is not the charity, in my opinion, whatever else the organization may or may not be?

Yours faithfully,
HARRY BIGGS-DAVISON, 128 Kensington Church Street, W8, January 12.

Farwell to Blackwood's

From Mrs F. R. Lewis

Sir, The farwell to "Maga" in today's *Times* (January 8) is unjust in stating that its editors were "uncomfortable with women", and wrong in asserting that George Eliot was the only distinguished woman writer that Blackwood's Magazine attracted. It not only published Mrs Oliphant's masterly novel *Miss Marjoribanks* as a serial and many other of her fictional works but also sponsored the career of this remarkable woman "as a sort of general utility woman in the Magazine" from her maiden twenties onwards, as she says in the *Annals of a Publishing House* she wrote for them. She contributed

over 200 articles on literary subjects to "Maga".

The family certainly appreciated the talents of this leading woman of letters of the Victorian Age (George Eliot being the leading woman novelist, rather). In 1870 John Blackwood wrote: "The scene was like a drama. Mrs Oliphant, up here, Col Lockhart and Lewes both talking first class with her, and I for some time downstairs speaking with George Eliot." A handsome obituary notice appeared in "Maga" for her in 1897, which claimed for Mrs Oliphant "the proud title of the most accomplished periodical writer of the day".

Yours etc,
Q. D. LEAVIS, 12 Bulstrode Gardens, Cambridge.

Threat to Cornish woods

From Mr C. F. Rawnsley

Sir, As the organizer and, for its first four years, Director of the National Trust's coastal conservation project which I named Enterprise Neprune, and as one who has known the Helford River for more than 60 years, I am deeply concerned about the proposal to substitute conifer plantations for the natural deciduous growth on Calanassack Point (report, December 29).

The haunting charm of this, in common with other Cornish estuaries, is in no small measure due to the characteristic canopy of almost impenetrable scrub oak which has covered its banks probably since vegetation first took hold after the last ice age.

The 40 acres of Calanassack Woods are an important section of this canopy, situated as they are on a conspicuous promontory at the seaward end of the undeveloped stretches of the river. A change in any part of those woods to an alien crop of conifers would irreparably alter the character of the landscape and might well prove the thin end of the wedge for the exploitation

of the banks by other riparian landowners.

The argument that in recent years the woods have been overcropped and need the protection which stands of conifers could provide does not bear examination. They have lain in their natural self-wasting and self-perpetuating state entirely undisturbed since the turn of the century.

Conifers, far from providing protection, would prove the first casualties to the gales sweeping in from the Atlantic. Memories of the havoc wrought by an exceptional storm a few years ago in the conifer plantations in many parts are too recent to have been forgotten. Besides, conifer stands involve at regular intervals clear felling and replanting and during the period before the new crop has grown up the land presents a forlorn and derelict appearance.

It is to be earnestly hoped that permanent protection will be given to the Calanassack Woods.

Yours faithfully,
CONRAD RAWNSLEY, Millhouse, Halfway Bridge, West Sussex.

Gold in the nose

From Mr A. J. Apt

Sir, In your leader today (January 8) on cosmetic surgery, you refer to the gold nose of the Danish astronomer, Tycho Brahe. In fact, however, the prosthesis was most accurately described as being of gold and silver, and it is clear from portraits that it was merely the bridge, not the whole nose.

Furthermore, it is reported that when Tycho was exhumed, in 1901, it was found that there was a bright green stain on a scar near the nasal opening of the skull. (The prosthesis itself had vanished.) It was therefore concluded that Tycho's nose was actually consisted of an alloy of copper, gold, and silver, and that Tycho was most simply being ostentatious, but was trying to achieve a flesh tone.

If we may judge from his quick temper, he was probably a rather florid gentleman.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM J. APT, St Catherine's College, Oxford, January 8.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

هكذا من الأصل

ELACH How much of
n the EEC a crisis
for exporters?
page 17

Stock markets

FT Ind 447.4, down 7.7
FT Gilt 68.39, up 0.08

Sterling

\$ 2.3885, down 100
Index 79.3, unchanged

Dollar

Index 87.0, up 0.5
DM 2.0003, up 153

Gold

\$564.50, up \$2

Money

3 mth sterling 144-145
3 mth Euro 5 19-183
6 mth Euro 5 17-17 1/2

IN BRIEF

Denial of Options Market withdrawal

Stock Market suggestions that one stock jobber was to withdraw from the Traded Options market and that another planned to reduce its involvement were categorically denied last night by Mr David Steen, a member of the Exchange Council. The jobbers mentioned were Bisgood Bishop and Wedd Durlacher Mordaunt.

It was believed that the stock jobbers had reached their decisions after a Traded Options Committee meeting yesterday morning.

There have been mounting difficulties in the market for some time because volume has been disappointingly small since its inception three years ago. In the past six months volume has never exceeded 2,916 contracts.

Mr Steen said: "No jobber has decided to pull out." But he admitted that jobbers had been losing money on options unless turnover improved over the next six months some might reduce their commitments.

Commerzbank fails to pay dividend

Commerzbank AG, West Germany's third largest private sector bank, has confirmed that it will not be paying a dividend for 1980 because of inadequate earnings on its lending business.

The lesson, page 16
Financial Editor, page 17
Business Diary, page 17

Port of London Aid

The Port of London is seeking financial help from the Government and faces another inquiry before any decision is made. Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, told Parliament yesterday.

Midland Bank move

Mr Malcolm Wilcox, who is to retire as one of the joint chief executives of Midland Bank as part of extensive senior management changes announced yesterday. Mr Stuart Graham is taking on overall responsibility for the bank's operations with the title of chief executive.

Business Diary, page 17
Business Appointments, page 19

\$127,000 salary

An unnamed director of Management Agency and Music, the Tom Jones and Engelbert Humperdinck group, earned more than £127,000 last year—more than double his previous year's £48,815, according to the annual report.

Wall Street lower

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 3.67 points down at 965.10. The S&P 500 was 1.26579. The E was 0.530352.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Boustead 5p to 114p
Carrington Vty 1p to 11p
Hawkins & Tson 4p to 26p
Knox 20p to 64p
Lemsey Ord 1p to 15p

Falls

Pisons 30p to 138p
GKN 10p to 138p
GNS 10p to 150p
Hogg Rob 10p to 105p
Husky Oil 22p to 69p

THE POUND

Bank buys 2.40
Bank sells 2.42
Australia Sch 35.75
Belgium Fr 79.50
Canada \$ 2.91
Denmark Kr 15.20
Dutch Gld 9.60
France Fr 11.35
Germany DM 4.94
Greece Dr 131.00
Hong Kong \$ 12.65
Ireland Pds 1.32
Italy Lira 2370.00
Japan Yen 513.00
Netherlands Gld 5.35

Bank buys 12.83
Bank sells 12.85
Norway Kr 134.00
Portugal Esc 126.00
South Africa R 2.13
Spain Ptas 164.50
Sweden Kr 10.38
Switzerland Fr 4.47
USA \$ 2.44
Yugoslavia Ddr 83.50

THE POUND

Bank buys 12.83
Bank sells 12.85
Norway Kr 134.00
Portugal Esc 126.00
South Africa R 2.13
Spain Ptas 164.50
Sweden Kr 10.38
Switzerland Fr 4.47
USA \$ 2.44
Yugoslavia Ddr 83.50

THE POUND

Bank buys 12.83
Bank sells 12.85
Norway Kr 134.00
Portugal Esc 126.00
South Africa R 2.13
Spain Ptas 164.50
Sweden Kr 10.38
Switzerland Fr 4.47
USA \$ 2.44
Yugoslavia Ddr 83.50

THE POUND

Bank buys 12.83
Bank sells 12.85
Norway Kr 134.00
Portugal Esc 126.00
South Africa R 2.13
Spain Ptas 164.50
Sweden Kr 10.38
Switzerland Fr 4.47
USA \$ 2.44
Yugoslavia Ddr 83.50

THE POUND

Bank buys 12.83
Bank sells 12.85
Norway Kr 134.00
Portugal Esc 126.00
South Africa R 2.13
Spain Ptas 164.50
Sweden Kr 10.38
Switzerland Fr 4.47
USA \$ 2.44
Yugoslavia Ddr 83.50

THE POUND

Bank buys 12.83
Bank sells 12.85
Norway Kr 134.00
Portugal Esc 126.00
South Africa R 2.13
Spain Ptas 164.50
Sweden Kr 10.38
Switzerland Fr 4.47
USA \$ 2.44
Yugoslavia Ddr 83.50

THE POUND

Bank buys 12.83
Bank sells 12.85
Norway Kr 134.00
Portugal Esc 126.00
South Africa R 2.13
Spain Ptas 164.50
Sweden Kr 10.38
Switzerland Fr 4.47
USA \$ 2.44
Yugoslavia Ddr 83.50

BP lifts estimate of reserves in Forties field by 200m barrels

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

British Petroleum has increased its estimate of the reserves recoverable from the giant Forties North Sea oil field by 200 million barrels to 2,000 million barrels.

The addition to the reserves is equivalent to the discovery of a new medium-sized oil field at today's prices would produce a total gross revenue of \$7.85bn.

In comparison with total North Sea reserves discovered so far of more than 16,000 million barrels, the reappraisal of Forties is small, but it tends to confirm the impression that oil companies are overly conservative in assessing the size of their discoveries.

The Argyll field, one of the smallest to be developed in the North Sea, has consistently had its reserves upgraded. Its original estimated production was 18 million barrels, but it has already had an output of 35 million barrels.

Other fields have been downgraded, however, and in its review of the development of oil and gas resources in 1980, the Department of Energy slightly reduced its estimates of the eventual recoverable reserves despite a number of new discoveries during the year.

For BP which has spent £1,000m developing Forties, the extra 200 million barrels of recoverable reserves is of considerable importance. Most fields of 50 million barrels and less are now being thought of as being potentially commercial, and a 200 million barrel field is probably a good average size for future discoveries.

BP's Buchan field, which is being developed with the converted Drilmaster rig, has estimated reserves of only 50 million barrels and the Tartan field, which started production at 10,000 barrels a day last week, is estimated to have only the same total reserves as this new addition to Forties.

But where Tartan was developed with a fixed production platform, the extra reserves in Forties may be tapped through undersea wells drilled by semisubmersibles and linked into the present four production platforms. Alternatively it may be exploited by BP's new "caterpillar" tanker, known as "Swamp", the Sigsbee Well Operating System, which can both drill and produce.

Ways of tapping the new reserves are still being considered by the production team. Most recent discoveries in the North Sea have been near to known reserves, but not always as extensions of fields. Many have proved to be separate accumulations.

The British National Oil Corporation has confirmed a discovery which might have recoverable reserves of around 100 million barrels close to the Thistle field, and Hamilton Brothers this week announced a promising discovery close to the Argyll field.

Infill finds of this kind are common in a mature exploration area such as the North Sea, and explain the intense interest shown in the blocks offered by the Department of Energy for licensing in the seventh round in an area where most finds have been made. The companies awarded these blocks agreed to pay an initial £5m for the right to explore, the first time such "key money" has been required.

The rate of discovery in the North Sea still remains high, with one find being made for every nine wells sunk in the final quarter of 1980. But, according to oil consultants Gaffney, Cline and Associates, exploration drilling has not picked up as fast as expected.

The new reserves in the Forties field will increase its life and add to government revenues. BP has 96 per cent of the field with Shell and Esso sharing the remaining 4 per cent equally.

Fraser-Lonrho public fights cost £1m

By Philip Robinson

Sir Hugh Fraser said yesterday that public battles between his House of Fraser and its main shareholder Lonrho have cost the stores group about £1m this year.

The fight at last summer's annual meeting and the special shareholders' meeting on January 20, has cost Fraser £750,000 and lost interest on the D. H. Evans £29m sale and leaseback deal, which has been challenged by Lonrho, cost £250,000.

But it is unlikely that the Fraser board will be meeting Mr "Tiny" Rowland, chief executive of Lonrho, head on. Although Sir Hugh had been reported as saying he wanted Mr Rowland and fellow Lonrho representative Lord Duncan-Sandys voted off the board next summer, he emphasized yesterday that he was expressing a very personal opinion and that he had not discussed it with the rest of the board.

Plunked at a special press conference yesterday by his two latest board appointments, Professor Roland Smith and Mr Ernest Sharp, a former joint managing director of Grand Metropolitan, Sir Hugh said: "I was expressing a personal opinion. But the situation is impossible. You would not believe what was happening."

But Professor Smith said he was quite happy with Lonrho on the board. "Life would be very unexciting without them," Mr Sharp said. "I have sympathy with Sir Hugh's comments, but I am not sure we should go that far. I am sure we should go that far."

He added: "When I was invited to join House of Fraser I was quite happy with Lonrho on the board. Life would be very unexciting without them."

Mr Sharp said: "I have sympathy with Sir Hugh's comments, but I am not sure we should go that far. I am sure we should go that far."

After a day of meetings with the company and members of the Loan Guarantee Board he said he thought that the board's members had reacted positively to the profit-sharing part of the plan.

"It seemed conceptually acceptable to them, but I do not think they view it as their role to urge this upon the Chrysler Corporation," he said. He still expected the board to decide on the loan guarantees today.

To receive the new guarantees, Chrysler must convince the loan board that it can survive, but time is running out for the company which has been on the brink of bankruptcy for over a year.

This week, officials, union leaders, corporate executives and bankers are meeting in Washington to try to work out a plan to keep Chrysler afloat.

The company has already drawn \$600m from the £1,500m in the United States, of the authorized by Congress just over a year ago, and has asked workers to forgo \$653m in wages and benefits over the next 21 months and suppliers to freeze their prices for a year.—Reuter.

After a day of meetings with the company and members of the Loan Guarantee Board he said he thought that the board's members had reacted positively to the profit-sharing part of the plan.

"It seemed conceptually acceptable to them, but I do not think they view it as their role to urge this upon the Chrysler Corporation," he said. He still expected the board to decide on the loan guarantees today.

To receive the new guarantees, Chrysler must convince the loan board that it can survive, but time is running out for the company which has been on the brink of bankruptcy for over a year.

This week, officials, union leaders, corporate executives and bankers are meeting in Washington to try to work out a plan to keep Chrysler afloat.

The company has already drawn \$600m from the £1,500m in the United States, of the authorized by Congress just over a year ago, and has asked workers to forgo \$653m in wages and benefits over the next 21 months and suppliers to freeze their prices for a year.—Reuter.

After a day of meetings with the company and members of the Loan Guarantee Board he said he thought that the board's members had reacted positively to the profit-sharing part of the plan.

day that he was expressing a very personal opinion and that he had not discussed it with the rest of the board.

Plunked at a special press conference yesterday by his two latest board appointments, Professor Roland Smith and Mr Ernest Sharp, a former joint managing director of Grand Metropolitan, Sir Hugh said: "I was expressing a personal opinion. But the situation is impossible. You would not believe what was happening."

But Professor Smith said he was quite happy with Lonrho on the board. "Life would be very unexciting without them," Mr Sharp said. "I have sympathy with Sir Hugh's comments, but I am not sure we should go that far. I am sure we should go that far."

He added: "When I was invited to join House of Fraser I was quite happy with Lonrho on the board. Life would be very unexciting without them."

Mr Sharp said: "I have sympathy with Sir Hugh's comments, but I am not sure we should go that far. I am sure we should go that far."

After a day of meetings with the company and members of the Loan Guarantee Board he said he thought that the board's members had reacted positively to the profit-sharing part of the plan.

"It seemed conceptually acceptable to them, but I do not think they view it as their role to urge this upon the Chrysler Corporation," he said. He still expected the board to decide on the loan guarantees today.

To receive the new guarantees, Chrysler must convince the loan board that it can survive, but time is running out for the company which has been on the brink of bankruptcy for over a year.

This week, officials, union leaders, corporate executives and bankers are meeting in Washington to try to work out a plan to keep Chrysler afloat.

The company has already drawn \$600m from the £1,500m in the United States, of the authorized by Congress just over a year ago, and has asked workers to forgo \$653m in wages and benefits over the next 21 months and suppliers to freeze their prices for a year.—Reuter.

After a day of meetings with the company and members of the Loan Guarantee Board he said he thought that the board's members had reacted positively to the profit-sharing part of the plan.

"It seemed conceptually acceptable to them, but I do not think they view it as their role to urge this upon the Chrysler Corporation," he said. He still expected the board to decide on the loan guarantees today.

To receive the new guarantees, Chrysler must convince the loan board that it can survive, but time is running out for the company which has been on the brink of bankruptcy for over a year.

This week, officials, union leaders, corporate executives and bankers are meeting in Washington to try to work out a plan to keep Chrysler afloat.

The company has already drawn \$600m from the £1,500m in the United States, of the authorized by Congress just over a year ago, and has asked workers to forgo \$653m in wages and benefits over the next 21 months and suppliers to freeze their prices for a year.—Reuter.

After a day of meetings with the company and members of the Loan Guarantee Board he said he thought that the board's members had reacted positively to the profit-sharing part of the plan.

"It seemed conceptually acceptable to them, but I do not think they view it as their role to urge this upon the Chrysler Corporation," he said. He still expected the board to decide on the loan guarantees today.

To receive the new guarantees, Chrysler must convince the loan board that it can survive, but time is running out for the company which has been on the brink of bankruptcy for over a year.

had no intention of joining the Lonrho camp or the House of Fraser camp. I was not able to maintain the stance any longer when I saw the degree of harassment and the diversion of management time in a wholly unproductive way. To be anything else would be a total dereliction of duty.

"We have a vote on everything. If you said it was Tuesday we would have to have a vote on it. I have voted more times at the board meetings I have attended in the past 20 years put together," Mr Sharp said.

He defended the group's decision to sell and leaseback D. H. Evans in a property deal designed to give the group a total of £40m. Fraser did not need the money, but was looking at the best way to use the group's 112 stores starting with

the biggest. "When you ask the question of Harrods the answer is simple. You do nothing. The store is superb as it is," he said.

Both sides are claiming considerable support from the special meeting in Glasgow. Lonrho says it has the backing of 3,500 shareholders, but it does not know how many votes that represents.

Sir Hugh said the board has "more than slightly more than" but declined to disclose how many votes were with him. "I do not see, any way we would have to take stock again."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

the biggest. "When you ask the question of Harrods the answer is simple. You do nothing. The store is superb as it is," he said.

Both sides are claiming considerable support from the special meeting in Glasgow. Lonrho says it has the backing of 3,500 shareholders, but it does not know how many votes that represents.

Sir Hugh said the board has "more than slightly more than" but declined to disclose how many votes were with him. "I do not see, any way we would have to take stock again."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Asked if they thought Mr Rowland would make a takeover bid, Professor Smith said: "He missed his best opportunity last year." Mr Sharp added: "They have not got the fire power to do it."

Building societies lend record £965m

By Margaret Stone

Building societies lent a record £965m to home buyers in December and promised a further £883m to borrowers, leaving the societies in a strong position at the end of the year.

Mr Norman Griggs, Secretary General of the Building Societies Association, said yesterday that societies "should have substantial mortgage funds available over the next two or three months."

Net receipts in December at £448m were comfortably higher than the £350m originally forecast for the month, and are the second best for 1980.

Fears that the Government's second issue of index-linked National Savings certificates would cream away funds from societies for the second consecutive month proved unfounded.

After the £150m estimated transfer from building societies to savings certificates in November (when the issue went on sale), only £50m was thought to have been "lost" to the state last month.

By making the age qualification 60 years for holders of both sexes and increasing the maximum holding on the new index-linked certificates to £3,000, the Government intended them to be the main contributor to its programme to raise £1,500m from National Savings this fiscal year.

However, after the sales success of the initial weeks, the momentum seems to have dwindled and sales are now averaging just over £40m a week.

The Government is now planning its hopes on the conventional 15th issue of National Savings certificates yielding 14.7 per cent gross and on National Savings Bank investment accounts, paying 15 per cent. The maximum holdings were raised to £5,000 and £200,000 on Monday.

The cut in building society investment rates from 10.5 per cent to 9.25 per cent (13.2 per cent gross) at the beginning of the year has not yet had much impact upon society receipts, although it is expected to cause a modest fall in returns this month.

The reduction will also make a difference to the amount of interest credited to investors. Last year, interest left in accounts amounted to £3.329m—much less than total net receipts of £3.674m.

Total lending last year was £9,400m, the highest ever, but the rise in house prices, mainly during the early part of the year, meant that only 679,000 home loans were made compared with 715,000 in 1979.

But along with other creditors, Capel Court says that if agreement is not reached it is prepared to proceed with liquidating Massey. Midland Bank International has a 26 per cent stake in Capel Court.

But along with other creditors, Capel Court says that if agreement is not reached it is prepared to proceed with liquidating Massey. Midland Bank International has a 26 per cent stake in Capel Court.

But along with other creditors, Capel Court says that if agreement is not reached it is prepared to proceed with liquidating Massey. Midland Bank International has a 26 per cent stake in Capel Court.

But along with other creditors, Capel Court says that if agreement is not reached it is prepared to proceed with liquidating Massey. Midland Bank International has a 26 per cent stake in Capel Court.

But along with other creditors, Capel Court says that if agreement is not reached it is prepared to proceed with liquidating Massey. Midland Bank International has a 26 per cent stake in Capel Court.

But along with other creditors, Capel Court says that if agreement is not reached it is prepared to proceed with liquidating Massey. Midland Bank International has a 26 per cent stake in Capel Court.

Flexibility of financial system urged

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

The changing pattern of financial flows seen over the past few years required an adaptable approach on the part of the authorities in their attitude towards the objectives of the financial system.

This was the message of Mr "Kit" McMahon, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England in the Ernest Sykes Memorial Lecture, delivered to the Institute of Bankers last night.

Taking the large increase in the personal sector surplus, and the corresponding increase in the deficits of the public and corporate sectors as his starting point, Mr McMahon noted the ways in which the tax system might have influenced the way

in which personal sector surpluses had been used. He drew particular attention to the building society, life assurance, and pension receipts.

The result of the former had been absorbed in house purchase, while the result of the latter might have been that available long term investment funds had increasingly gone to well-regulated companies.

It was "fair to observe that, as is often the case, the original design of the system—such as the encouragement of provision for retirement—have created or magnified distortions in the process of saving and investment which have later found to require corrective measures."

The increased role of the banking system in channelling personal sector funds to the corporate sector had resulted in increasing pressure on the

banks and a change in the banks' "maturity transformation" with more borrowing short to lend long.

This made it desirable both to move towards the reopening of the long term capital markets for companies and to ensure capital adequacy for the banking system.

The Government was already moving towards the former objective with its plan to take pressure off long term interest rates by shifting more public sector funding back into National Savings. This would necessarily lead to greater competition between the Government and the building societies for personal sector savings, but that in turn might help to prevent a new explosion in house prices.

As far as the banks' capital adequacy went, the relatively healthy performance of bank profits had in some measure compensated for the riskier

environment in which they operated and helped to mitigate the impairment of their capital base.

But the raising of new capital, either in the equity or long term debt market, would be a helpful development in terms

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Dog days in German banking

Art the problems of the German banks, which have finally led Commerzbank to confirm that it will not be paying a dividend this year, just a temporary phenomenon wholly connected with the weakness of the Deutschmark and the vicious squeeze on interest margins over the last two years? Or are they a reflection of fundamental changes in the banking structure that are working to the disadvantage of the big universal banks?

Many German bankers believe that it is bad management, which has been too slow to respond to changes in the economy at large, that is at the root of their troubles. Commerzbank's difficulties stem from the rapid expansion of its balance sheet over the last five years which has given it a higher proportion of fixed-rate lending than the other banks. To make matters worse this has been largely funded in the interbank market, where borrowing has become more and more expensive as the German authorities have intensified the monetary squeeze.

Certainly, the much better showing of Deutsche Bank this year, while reflecting its wider domestic branch network and cheaper current account money to some extent, also owes a lot to its management's better reading of German interest rates.

But the position of the universal banks in the monetary system, whereby they have to place interest-free deposits with the Bundesbank puts them at the sharp end in periods of monetary restraint as over the last two years. Unlike the British clearers, the big three German banks have only about 10 per cent of the savings market and with the sharp rise in interest rates the savings and Landesbank have become very stiff competitors.

Meanwhile, with their large industrial holdings and the difficulties of German companies highlighted by the crisis last year at AEG, the banks may have extensive bad debt provisions for some time to come.

For the moment though Commerzbank is rolling confidently about getting back to a dividend in 1981. But the dog days for German banks are far from over given that interest rates look like remaining high, and the old practice of yearly issues to pump up balance sheets will now be much more difficult to get away. Critics of United Kingdom clearing bank profits may like to muse on what would have happened to depositors' confidence had Barclays or NatWest passed their dividend.

Reo Stakis When Scotland suffers...

Reo Stakis Organization, the Scottish hotel casino and off licence chain has grown through opportunism. It used a loophole in Glasgow licensing laws to build hotels that could cater for drinkers on Sundays when pubs were closed, and it was quick last year to spend £4.4m cash on five Ladbroke casinos when the Courts forced the closure of Cyril Stein's casino chain.

However, it will need all its opportunism to cope with Scotland's recession this year, a point not lost in the market yesterday where the shares slipped 2½p to 49½p.

The figures for the year to last September are surprisingly good. After the rise of 18 per cent in profits at half time the group seemed to be heading for £4m for the full year. But Scotland's worst summer in memory and recession soon had observers setting for around £3.7m. Instead Reo Stakis came up with pretax profits of £3.94m against £3.56m, a figure to which the Ladbroke casinos did not contribute.

The profits breakdown is also surprising. Wholesale wines and spirits and off licences doubled trading profits to £1m, good even though recession is apparently inducing Scotsmen to drink at home after visiting off licences rather than pubs. The 16 per cent advance in casino profits to £1.59m was by contrast pedestrian but hotels and inns had a 7 per cent gain to £2.35m.

Short of fulfilling a long held ambition to buy a flagship hotel in London Reo Stakis could be short of pleasant surprises this year. Christmas trading was adequate, but fewer people flying North to visit Scotland. Results are admitted to be "below expectations". Profits in the first half year will suffer, but another full year of progress is foreseen. But could simply mean that the five Ladbroke casinos will make, say £700,000 after financing charges and the whole group only £4.3m or so, implying a

setback for Stakis as it was before the Ladbroke deal.

The shares have already come up from 29½p at one time last year and now yield only 4 per cent, a lot less than Grand



Mr. Reo Stakis, chairman of The Reo Stakis Organization.

Metropolitan and Trusthouse Forte, but the Stakis family, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, and Scottish institutions between them have a majority of the shares.

One of the Government's main financial aims, the Treasury made it clear last summer, would be to take pressure of long-term interest rates by shifting a greater proportion of public-sector financing to the shorter term personal sector market, ie to National Savings instruments. That, in turn, would encourage companies to return to the long-term markets to borrow, taking pressure off the banks and the money supply, as defined by sterling M3. That aim remains intact, according to Mr McMahon, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England in the Ernest Sykes Memorial Lecture that he delivered last night.

The evidence to date, however, suggests that it is fairly hard going for the authorities. Sales of the new issues of Treasury Bonds, launched in November, have been only a limited success to date, though there are clearly hopes that the raised ceilings on holdings of Nineteenth Issue Savings Certificates and Investment Account deposits will prove a good draw. Meanwhile, long-dated, gilt-edged yields have crept back above the 14 per cent level, with the yield curve tending to turn more positive rather than more negative as the authorities had

SGB It must get tougher

SGB's final results put some life back into the shares after their recent weakness and they closed 8p higher at 136p on the £1.8m rise in pretax profits to £15.3m.

But it is clear that trading in the year to September 27 became progressively tougher and at this stage it looks as though profits in the current year will be down by at least £1m.

Having increased first half profits by a quarter, SGB managed only a 3 per cent rise in the second half and the experience of the heavy plant hire activities in contractors' services—the only United Kingdom division not to increase profits—gives some indication of how tough 1980-81 will be.

Coming early in the cycle, the heavy plant hire activities did little better than break even.

Scaffolding, which has been helped by the level of repair and maintenance work remains the core of the group; the United Kingdom scaffolding companies accounted for much of the profit increase, contributing over half the pretax total, and repair and maintenance work is still holding up.

Overseas results were better despite the downturn in Continental Europe. Meanwhile, SGB's hire shops made higher profits but are temporarily at least ex-growth.

SGB has a good record and sound balance sheet and the dividend, increased by 16 per cent, is 3½ times covered under current cost accounting. But given the group's exposure to the construction industry, a 5.6 per cent yield is no more than adequate support for shares at this stage, been hoping.

One of the puzzles of the British economy in recent months has been the performance of exports. The level recorded each month by the Department of Trade has appeared to be entirely out of tune with the alarmist reports from industrialists of lost overseas orders and declining foreign sales.

The acute concern felt about export prospects arises from the massive loss of price competitiveness that has occurred during the last couple of years. On the basis of relative labour costs the level of price competitiveness in 1980 is estimated by the Treasury to have been some 40 to 50 per cent less favourable than in 1978.

Such a deterioration, the Bank of England said in its last Quarterly Bulletin, "has no parallel in recent history, either in this country or among its major competitors". According to Bank estimates, changes in effective competitiveness probably reduced the volume of manufactured exports by 4 per cent between the third quarter of 1979 and the third quarter of 1980. But the full effect of recent losses of competitiveness on the volume of trade has, the Bank believes, yet to be felt.

There are two reasons for this loss of competitiveness: high wage increases and the sharp rise in the pound's exchange rate.

Of the 40-50 per cent loss in competitiveness the Treasury proportions three fifths to the higher rise in unit labour costs in the United Kingdom than in our competitors and the remaining two fifths to exchange rate appreciation.

In spite of all this, however, exports in 1980 were up on those in 1979. The rise in visible exports last year is likely to have been more than 16 per cent higher than for 1979 (on the basis of the first eleven months and assuming that the December figure is about the average for October and November).

Much of this increase does, of course, represent higher export prices. In volume terms visible exports are likely to have risen by about 2 per cent, or 3½ per cent increase in 1979.

The underlying trend is shown by changes in the level

of exports during the year. Thus, excluding erratic items like ships, aircraft, precious stones and North Sea installations, the volume of visible exports declined between the first and second quarters of the year, with a further modest drop in the third. Even so, volume sales abroad were still then above the average for 1979.

In September and October it did appear that exports were set on a downward course, but in November they bounced back.

What is significant, however, is that the main contributor to last year's modest rise in export volumes was sales of non-manufactures—food, beverages, tobacco, metals and fuels. The volume of oil exports rose by 3.4 per cent as well as earnings more for Britain as prices rose.

On the other hand, the volume of manufactured exports which account for about three quarters of the total, was higher than in 1979 (excluding erratic items). This was because of a marked fall in semi-manufactures, notably standardized bulk goods like chemicals. This category, more than any other, appears to be suffering from the effects of loss of competitiveness.

Overall, sales of finished manufactures actually fell, although even here the result was not uniform, with exports of cars dropping and capital and intermediate goods rising.

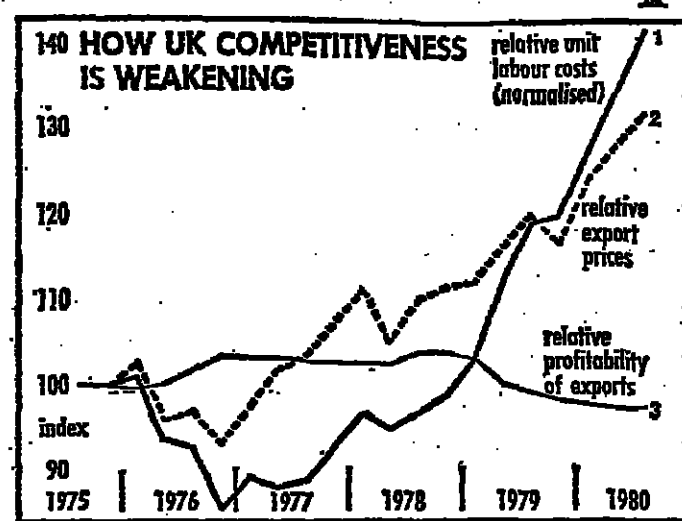
Thus, while there is evidence that some sub-categories of exports are being hit, by the loss of competitiveness, it is not yet apparent that such effects are very widespread.

There are three possible explanations why this should be so. To begin with, it is clear that the sources of markets for British goods are becoming more diverse. Britain has been quite strong and certainly greater than had been at first expected by the Department of Trade.

The growth of world trade in manufactures, which is in accord with the pattern of Britain's trade, is estimated to have been running at about 8 per cent during much of 1980. Although the final figure for the year as a whole might prove to be a little less, market growth will still have been quite high.

Melvyn Westlake

How much of a crisis in exports?



Except for relative export profitability, an upward movement in an index indicates a worsening in competitiveness.

Source: Monthly Review of External Trade Statistics. 1. United Kingdom labour costs per unit of manufacturing output divided by a weighted average of competitors' unit labour costs, expressed in a common currency and adjusted for productivity variations. 2. Unit value of United Kingdom exports of manufacturers divided by the weighted average of the unit values of competitors' exports of manufacturers, both expressed in a common currency. 3. Unit value of United Kingdom exports of manufacturers divided by a weighted index of United Kingdom wholesale output prices of manufacturers.

In particular, the major oil exporting countries, which are more important markets for us than our domestic competitors, have been rapidly expanding their imports after the oil price increases. Some of the smaller European countries, too, have been quite strong markets.

This has helped to prevent a sharp decline in the level of foreign sales, though, even so, it still seems likely that Britain's volume share of world trade in manufactures will show a fall for 1980.

A second factor helping to maintain export levels last year may have been a redirection of sales from the depressed home market to overseas markets. There is some evidence that those sectors which have been suffering particularly badly from the domestic recession have performed reasonably well in export markets.

It has been suggested that companies might be attempting to overcome the effects of the high exchange rate by improving non-price factors like quality, delivery dates, market after-sales service. The high level of stocks in industry and the recession at

home would certainly have permitted a sharp improvement in delivery time though, if this is the only non-price factor that has improved, any advantage conferred to exporters would be unlikely to survive an upturn in the home market. There is not much evidence of any more profound improvement in non-price competitiveness.

It may also be that exporters have tried to hang on to their overseas markets by cutting profit margins. The profitability of exporters does not appear to have deteriorated much since the end of 1979, relative to profits on home sales, although there has probably been a fall in the profitability of both.

According to some calculations, however, the absolute level of export profitability remains higher than for home sales and this would be another incentive for a redirection of sales from the depressed home market to overseas markets.

The third explanation for the recent export performance is that time lag involved before higher prices lead to a fall in orders. The less standardized

and more specialized the goods involved, and the longer the contracts and delivery times that are required, the longer it will take for higher prices to lead to a fall in orders.

An importer may also be able to switch suppliers only after a lag. In the mean time he may be obliged to pay the higher prices asked and the value of exports will rise.

The Treasury believes that it may take up to four years for the full effect of a loss of competitiveness to be felt in the volume of manufactured exports. The effects build up particularly strongly after two years, which means that Britain will begin to feel them more acutely in the next few months.

Some economists have suggested that these relationships between price and volume may have begun to break down in the case of the services sector. An improvement in the non-price factors has reduced the sensitivity of British exports to changes in relative prices. But no evidence of such breakdown in the services sector has been found by economists in Whitehall.

While the relative strength of overseas sales last year has caused some surprise, there seems little chance of exports repeating that performance this year. Economic forecasters are variously predicting that the volume of exports will fall by between 0.5 and 6 per cent in 1981. The Treasury itself expects the growth in our export markets to slow down substantially, to only about 3 per cent this year. Total exports, sustained to some extent by rising exports of oil and some other non-manufactured goods, are predicted by the Treasury to fall by 3 per cent.

No official forecast is made about the likely growth of manufactured exports this year, in volume terms, but it seems likely that the 3 per cent drop predicted by the National Institute is close to the best official guess. What makes matters worse is that the volume of exports is still deteriorating. Inflation in Britain is still above that of our competitors, and even if the pound rose no further, this would still mean that price competitiveness was getting weaker. Weaker exports are thus likely to exacerbate the recession this year.

Why the travel trade is angry about air fares

With a few notable exceptions the last place to find the cheapest international air fares available in Britain at present is a travel agency. That more than anything, explains the travel trade's anger with the price-cutting campaign now being waged by the airlines.

The bargains on offer may be ridden with restrictions but they are undoubtedly bargains and available to anyone—anyone, that is, except a travel agent. The diligent traveller, for instance, by following up newspaper and magazine advertisements can find himself a return ticket to London from Bombay with Gulf Air for about £290. If he went to a travel agent or booked direct with the airline the price would be £300.

This sort of price-cutting has been going on for years. It frequently involves providing false information about the conditions of booking to enable the passenger to take advantage of Apex fare reductions. As far as the airlines are concerned the practice is illegal under the Civil Aviation Authority's licensing regulations.

But the authorities turn a blind eye to such activities, on the grounds that any administration which prevents the public from taking advantage of cheap fares is likely to appear anachronistic in these days of deregulation. But the heavily discounted air fare, normally sold through "bucket shops" which are not

members of the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA), has taken on a new level of importance in recent months, thanks largely to British Airways. The airline has embarked upon an aggressive, if not desperate, marketing campaign to improve its stricken finances.

One of the sources of the claim that it has given verbal authority to sales staff to match any other fare, to backdate tickets to enable them to be used as Apex fares, and to turn the trickle of BA tickets to bucket shops into a flood.

A British Airways spokesman said that he was not aware that sales staff had authority to match fares or backdate tickets. He said that bucket shops were going to bucket shops, he commented.

"Foreign airlines are dumping cheap seats on to the market and BA has had to take steps to match them," he said. "We are happy to do so, but it is difficult to see how such wide-spread flouting of the law could

be sanctioned without a lead from the Government. If the Government is convinced of BA's strategy of seeking volume above all else, it may give that lead."

The air fares jungle is likely to have a number of long-term effects on world aviation, not least on the rewards of the business travel sector.

Business travel has remained static in the face of the leisure travel boom of recent years and has consequently taken second place in marketing priorities. But it is the business travellers who have consistently paid the full fare in the past and are most likely to stick with the airlines through the recession.

Are they, too, going to start demanding cheaper fares, whittling away at the hard core of full fare passengers? According to Mr Arthur Lydall, past president of the Institute of Air Transport, the professional body of in-house business travel specialists,

"whether the airlines know it or not, they are contributing to the erosion of their high revenue earning business travellers."

"More and more companies are becoming cost conscious and fitting their travel requirements in with discounted fares."

The air fares market has something of an air of fantasy about it at present, with business travellers swapping tales of how the vast hundreds of pounds on a trip to Hongkong by booking a package holiday with one of the big tour companies.

But behind it lies the pressing reality of the mounting losses faced by a number of the world's airlines. The 108 members of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) are facing losses estimated at £1,100m last year and little better this year. There is precious little room for mistakes.

David Hewson

The high risks of drug research

The withdrawal of Pisons' anti-cancer drug Proxicromil only months before its launch is a pharmaceutical company's nightmare come true.

The collapse of Proxicromil is as vivid an example as there has been of the enormous risks involved in the manufacture of drugs. It is estimated that only one in 10,000 new products synthesized in drug company laboratories ever reaches the doctor's surgery. But many of these fall by the wayside at a fairly early stage. Pisons' bad luck—a very expensive piece of bad luck—was that it fell at the very last hurdle.

The papers on Proxicromil were being studied by the Committee on the Safety of Medicines—the final safety scrutiny required before a drug can be marketed—when the company suddenly called a halt, disturbed by the results of a series of tests which had been carried out on animals.

The drug industry arouses a moral indignation in its critics that few other industries, with the possible exception of arms manufacture, can match. The detractors say, "It is human frailty and misery and not enormous profits in so doing."

That many drug companies do make very high profits is true and the industry as a whole makes the kind of returns which make other industrialists green with envy. In the three years to April, 1979, according to a recent survey by Inter Company Comparisons, the average profit margin of the industry rose from 10 per cent to 12.4 per cent and the average return on capital climbed from 18.5 per cent to 25.5 per cent.

But what is not so readily appreciated is the extremely high cost of research and development in the industry and the fairly short time over which a good drug can be successfully exploited. Drug companies race against a 20 year clock. That is the length of time which they have patent protection.

But the clock is started at a very early stage in the research programme and, on average, re-



Proxicromil—Pisons' biggest success: what will follow it?

search, development and safety testing takes between 10 and 12 years, which can leave a company with only eight years to sell the drug unimpeded before competitors can move in with their own copies.

Patent protection is just about to start running out for one of Pisons' most successful products, the antiasthmatic Inral, and Proxicromil had been widely regarded as the successor which would take its place as the lead product in the Pisons' range. Proxicromil was due to reach the United Kingdom market in September and was to have been launched in most European countries during 1982 and 1983. It was expected that approval would have been obtained for sale in the American and Japanese markets by 1985 or 1986.

Now the whole plan has blown up in Pisons' face. The company says that a number of other compounds with "significant potential" are now being developed in its laboratories, but no one could hide the disappointment that the collapse of Proxicromil has caused.

Dr David Quance, Pisons' director of research and development, is the man on whose recommendation the drug was withdrawn, when it became apparent that long-term animal tests were throwing doubts on its safety. It is ironic that this was the last series of tests

required by the Committee on the Safety of Medicines and even more ironic that these tests, carried out on rats, had been carried through without any negative indications on hamsters.

"I think my first reaction was disbelief and then disappointment," Dr Quance said yesterday.

It will be some time before Pisons' accountants are able to quantify with any precision just how expensive the Proxicromil affair has been, but Dr Quance was able to give some indication of the large number of expensive laboratory man hours which had gone into the project.

The compound, he said, had been patented in 1973 and for the next three years 20 people were involved in detailed research work on it. The project moved into the development phase in 1976 and between then and 1978 an average of 10 people were involved, building up to a peak of about 80 in 1978. Thereafter the numbers dropped off again, until last year the laboratory was using about 25 people on Proxicromil.

The Proxicromil affair will do nothing to stem the arguments over drug pricing. The critics, many of whom would like to see the industry at least partially nationalized, will shed few tears for a company which managed to make nearly 60 per cent of its £11.1m profits in the first six months of last year out of a division which accounts for accounts for only 20 per cent of sales. If Proxicromil had become another Inral, they will point out, Pisons' drugs division would be able to look forward to another decade or more of what the critics see as unjustifiably high profits.

The drug companies could be forgiven for not seeing it quite that way. Pisons, after all, now stands between £9.5m and £11m a year on drug research and after many years of demanding and excessive work has just had to commission a prize project to the dustbin.

Malcolm Brown

Business Diary: Two into one • Frozen asset

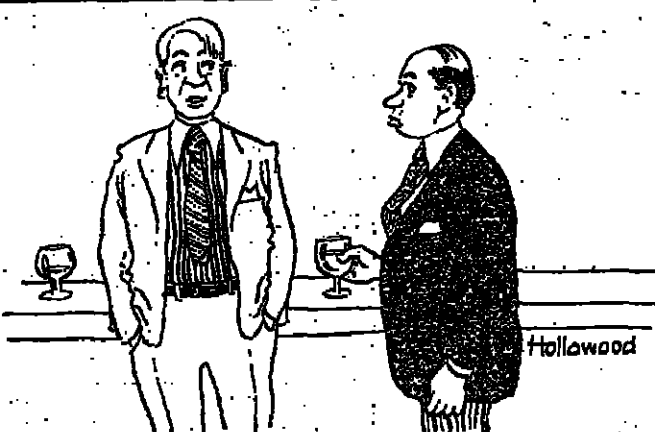
Yesterday's big changes bring to an end the unusual management structure whereby Midland Bank was led not by one but by two chief executives. Six years ago the board concluded that the world of banking had become too complex for one man to handle, so Malcolm Wilcox and Stuart Graham were put on a par to run the international and domestic operations respectively.

Now, with the retirement of Wilcox when he reaches 60 in June and the need to consolidate the bank's activities after a period of extensive change, Midland is appointing just one chief executive. Graham is taking on the job for the next year or so before he retires and under him will be John Brooks and Geoffrey Taylor, responsible for the day-to-day running of the two sides of the bank, and vying for the top slot in 1982.

Coming up fast on the inside track is John Harris who, still in his forties, takes on Taylor's old role in the international division. Insiders at Poultry see Harris as the next chief-but-one.

Another to figure in the changes is Michael Fulmer, who becomes a general manager, a junior clerk in 1958, how on to a high note having engineered the merger with San Francisco's Crocker National, the biggest ever foreign bank takeover in the United States.

Now all eyes are on who will be the next Midland chairman when caretaker Sir David Barran steps down in the next year or so.



"I'm wearing this shirt and collar to mark my sympathy with, and support for, Norman St John-Stevens."

No one can accuse Paul Lichtenberg, the 69-year-old reactivated chief executive of Commerzbank, of not knowing what he wants. He has made it abundantly clear that Dr Walter Seipp, one of the two deputy executive board chairmen at the Westdeutsche Landesbank, is just the man to take over his position at the top of Germany's third largest private sector bank. The only problem is that the Westdeutsche Landesbank does not want to let Seipp go.

If banking were as discreet a profession as its practitioners like to pretend, such manoeuvrings would never become public. But in Frankfurt this week Lichtenberg did not hesitate to describe Seipp as his "ideal" candidate to manage the troubled bank and let it be known that he had been pressuring the Westdeutsche Landesbank hard to release him.

Anstia Cullaghan is to take over from Bill Hyde this June as president of the 20,000-strong Institute of Cost and Management Accountants.

Cullaghan, like Hyde, is a Liverpudlian and one whose work has a cultural flavour.

Hyde is secretary to the Chest of Oxford University, among whose assets is the city's Playhouse Theatre. Cullaghan is now financial controller of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society and perhaps one of the few accountants to have performed on the stage of the city's Philharmonic Hall.

Cullaghan was not doing sums at the time, but singing in the chorals of the Archdiocesan Choral Society, formed 14 years ago for the opening of the Catholic cathedral there.

He went to the Phil last April (appropriately enough at the start of the financial year) after a stormy 14 years at the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company which took in financial crisis and capital reconstruction.

On arriving at the Phil, he found that, too, in financial crisis. Thus, while principal conductor David Atherton wielded his baton, Cullaghan bristled his calculator to bring down the loss for this financial year to "a manageable size" and he plans to eliminate it next year.

One fortuitous note is that the Arch Council is increasing its £240,000 grant (about a third of turnover).

Cullaghan, who sang at the Phil while accounting elsewhere, will now account elsewhere as a consultant now that he is working for the musicians.

Frank Chapple is the thinking Tory's favourite trade union leader, first for his successful exposure of communist malpractice in the union he now heads and, since, for his advocacy of "moderation".

When Chapple, the general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Trade Union, wrote a piece on the latter theme in Reader's Digest some time ago it was widely noticed. Not so a guest column he contributes to the current issue of the monetary journal of Economic Affairs.

In this, Chapple takes to task Professor Hayek for his assertion that unions retard economic growth. Asking Hayek for evidence, Chapple says: "Like the philosophers of old, the conservative economists have no need to refer to the real world: they have a theory which tells them what the world is really like."

Chapple concludes, although he is unlikely to be heard except by readers of the journal of Business Diary: "In the real world trade union freedom and personal freedom are inseparable." Even Reader's Digest might find that a little indigestible.

Ross Davies

FINANCIAL NEWS

Far East group claims 22 pc holding in Renwick

By Philip Robinson

Kangra International Holdings, the mystery Hongkong-based group which has been building a stake in the Renwick Group, announced yesterday it had bought a further 4.99 per cent, and now owns 22.52 per cent of the fuel distribution and travel agents company.

Despite a number of attempts by Renwick directors and their financial advisers, Samuel Montagu, little is known of the Far East off-the-shelf company formed last April. Last week a meeting between Montagu directors and Kangra was expected to take place but it has now been postponed. A Renwick representative has returned to Hongkong.

Kangra's frenetic buying of Renwick started the day before Christmas Eve with the group spending £1.1m in the stock market to buy 1.5m shares at prices around 85p. It is understood that there was a buying order for 500,000 Renwick shares at 68p in the market on Monday.

The share buying was a major factor in A.H. Group, dropping its 7.3m takeover bid for Renwick last week. All Kangra deals have been done through London stockbrokers, A. J. Bekhor.

Kangra's stake now virtually equals that of the combined shareholders said to be held by six unrelated clients of the UTO Bank of Zurich, which also has 200,000 shares.

The Takeover Panel, which has also been showing interest in the Kangra buying, said in a statement before Christmas that there was no evidence to think that the UTO Bank's clients were acting together.

The UTO Bank says each of its clients holds less than 5 per cent. The Panel said the UTO Bank was not evidence of a breach in the disclosure rules.

Boustead leaps on news of Hongkong group's stake

By Catherine Gunn

A Hongkong nominee company, Hendon Green, now owns 6.53 per cent of the British overseas trader and plantation group Boustead. The news sent Boustead's shares to a new 114p high yesterday, which is thought to have put a temporary halt to recent Malaysian buying, carried out around the 100p a share level.

Hendon Green is reported to be the investment vehicle of a wealthy Malay-Chinese business, man called Mr. Chang. It notified Boustead of a 5 per cent stake last month, and revealed the higher stake to it last week.

Ice drink boosts Somportex

Somportex, the Middlesex-based confectionery and delicatessen group, continues to see its fortunes transformed by its "Slush Puppie", the ice drink launched in the United Kingdom less than two years ago. The group's reported pretax profits more than doubled to £278,000 in the six months to October 31. Its shares spiralled 80p to a new high of 575p in a narrow market despite a warning that poor Easter sales will depress second-half profits on the general confectionery side. Last year, the shares, which are 65 per cent held by family interests and directors, were as low as 78p.

The group's earnings per share rose from 15.5p to 49.5p.

C A Sperati proposes to go private

The board of C. A. Sperati notes that under the new Companies Act the minimum authorised capital must be £50,000. The companies capital is only £25,000 and it therefore does not comply with this requirement.

The directors say that in their view the costs of increasing the capital, and the continuing cost of maintaining the companies share quotation, are not justified because they do not produce any significant benefit to the company or the shareholders, and they therefore propose to re-register as a private company.

No steps will be taken to register the company until after the annual meeting when the proposal will be tabled for discussion.

Recession casts its shadow over MAM

At Management Agency and Music, Mr. Gordon Mills, chairman, says that all divisions are trading satisfactorily, but the board feels that the current recession, with its associated problems, and rising unemployment, must have an increasingly adverse effect on all business undertakings. Therefore, some small reduction in profits is likely to become unavoidable as the year progresses.

This could well be cushioned to some extent, however, by a hoped-for boost in amusement machine rents later in the year.

Rumours continued yesterday that Sittie Darby might be behind the share buying, now that it has formally abandoned its pursuit of Guthrie Corporation. But its London office was ignorant of any links between Sittie Darby and Sime Darby last night, while Mr. Chang is said to have the resources to make a bid on his own behalf if he wishes.

Meanwhile, another British company, Warren Plantation, is under pressure from a group of shareholders, to reconsider its diversification plans.

The Belgian plantation company S. A. Sipef NV and others, including RIT (formerly Rothschild Investment Trust), have topped up their stake in Warren to 25.4 per cent of the enlarged post-rights capital. Sipef itself has 12.7 per cent. The concert party is disturbed by Warren's recent moves away from plantations into industry, and wants to discourage further shifts, Baron Bracht, Sipef's chairman said yesterday.

Sipef and Warren, which are similar in size, are partners with the government of Papua New Guinea in an oil palm plantation, and both have interests in Indonesia. Baron Bracht could not say whether the concert party would consider bidding for Warren, but confirmed that he hoped to discuss the future with Warren soon.

Aberdeen Investments buys services group

Aberdeen Investments has made its first acquisition in the field of financial services. It has agreed to acquire SCH Financial Services, an insurance and financial planning group which manages investment funds of about £5m.

Net profit before tax of SCH for the year to March 31 was £44,000 and net assets were £94,000.

The initial consideration will be £94,000, represented by 30,000 new ordinary shares in Aberdeen Investments and £43,000 cash.

The acquisition will enable Aberdeen to expand into financial services activities which the directors expect to produce above-average growth.

Attwood buys car cleaning group

Attwood Garages, which has recently been acquired by the British Car Auction group, has bought the majority 55 per cent stake in Car Cleaning Services for £36,000.

This acquisition is due to be followed by a second, slightly larger, purchase which will be announced tomorrow, said Mr. Thomas Marriott, the newly-appointed chief executive.

Car Cleaning Services, a London-based private company whose directors hold the remaining 45 per cent stake, made pretax profits of £13,000 last year on turnover of £345,000. Its net asset value at January 31, 1980, was £22,000. Mr. Marriott said it should be able to increase its turnover considerably through new motor trade contacts at Attwood.

The closure of BCA's offer for Attwood has also resulted in Mr. Richard Attwood, the chairman since last July and Mr. Anthony Attwood, his brother, becoming non-executive directors.

At present the two men are considering an offer of compensation to retire from the board, said Mr. Marriott. "It became clear when they sold their shares that they were no longer interested," he said.

Mr. Marriott relieved the Attwoods of their executive duties last week, soon after the publication of the group's £104,000 pretax loss for the first half. In 1979 Attwood made an interim profit of £34,000.

Mr. Geoffrey Skyrme has been appointed a director of Attwood Garages and will be responsible for the Talbot and Vauxhall franchises.

Mr. Marriott added that he fully expected the group to improve on last year's £73,000 pretax profit.

Business appointments

Senior changes at Midland Bank

Mr. M. C. Wilcox will retire as a chief general manager on June 30 and will continue as a member of the Midland Bank board, chairman of Forward Trust Group and Samuel Montagu. Mr. S. H. Graham, a director and chief general manager, will, upon Mr. Wilcox's retirement, assume sole responsibility as chief executive of the group assisted by Mr. G. W. Taylor and Mr. J. A. Brooks, who are directors and deputy chief general managers. Mr. Taylor's present responsibility as chief executive, Midland Bank International, will with effect from July 1, be assumed by Mr. J. G. Harris, a general manager, who will become a director and assistant chief general manager. Mr. J. D. Greenwell, a general manager, will also become a director, and assistant chief general manager at that time. Mr. B. L. Goldthorpe, a general manager, has been made a senior general manager from July 1, when he will assume the responsibilities of chief executive, Forward Trust Group, in succession to Mr. Harris. Mr. K. B. Cox, a general manager, becomes a senior general manager with effect from February 1. Mr. M. T. J. Wallis, an assistant general manager, has been made a general manager from February 1. Mr. C. D. Smith, a regional director, becomes a general manager from March 1. Mr. M. J. Fuller, a regional director, has been made a general manager from July 1.

Mr. S. J. D. Coleridge is now a director of Barclays Merchant Bank, where he will head the group shipping department.

Mr. R. H. Lamb, Mr. J. G. Lee and Mr. D. M. Velt have joined the board of S. Pearson & Son.

Mr. James G. Davis, a director of Kilmurray, Benson has been elected president of the Chartered Institute of Transport for 1981/82, and will take office on October 5, 1981.

Mr. W. W. Huggins has been made deputy chairman of Pointon (Holdings).

Mr. Elliott Mark Gartner becomes a director and senior

executive resident in the United States of Morgan Grenfell Investment Services.

Mr. Geoffrey Anderson has resigned from the board of Laing Properties to become managing director of the Viking Property Group from March 2.

Mr. A. R. B. Samson has joined M.E.L. as commercial director.

Mr. P. J. McGloin and Mr. G. R. Realf have been made directors of Sedgwick Aviation.

Mr. Melvin H. Keeler and Mr. Fred Lewis have become directors of Reed Dredging Products. Mr. William H. C. Wilks will take up the post of finance director on April 1 and will join the board of Reed Dredging.

Mr. J. N. Butterwick, Mr. B. N. Kelly, Lord Kilmurray and Mr. T. J. Manners have been made vice-chairmen of Lazard Brothers and Company, and Mr. R. J. Fielding, vice-chairman of Lazard Securities. Mr. M. A. P. Agius, the Hon. M. D. Benson, Mr. J. A. Kitchen and Mr. C. B. Melluish are now executive directors of Lazard Brothers. Mr. J. A. B. Joll and Mr. M. J. Roberts become directors and Messrs G. G. Bell, T. Cross Brown, J. W. Sillman and I. Wiseman have been made assistant directors of the company. At the end of January Mr. A. W. Phillips will retire as an executive director but will remain a director, and in April Mr. E. W. J. Barnes will retire and Mr. S. E. Wright will leave to take up another appointment.

Mr. David Evans is now chairman of Sweet and Maxwell on the resignation of Mr. Peter Allsop. Sweet and Maxwell operates as the legal and professional publishing division of Associated Book Publishers (UK). Other responsibilities of Mr. Allsop and Mr. Evans, on the group board and within the United Kingdom, remain unaffected.

Mr. P. J. C. Pirb is now deputy managing director of Johnson Matthey Bankers. Mr. M. J. O'Hare becomes managing director, and Mr. A. J. A. Stoddard is now chief dealer, bullion.

Mr. Tommaso Zanotto has been named by American Express as senior vice-president to head travel division activities in Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Mr. Michael Seymour is now chairman of the Simon Carves Machinery, Mr. Ken Frost is now production director and

Mr. Peter Horton becomes technical director. Mr. Ken Cook has been made managing director of Simon Food Engineers. Dr. Ray Taylor is the new technical director of Simon-Vicar.

Mr. E. M. Gartner becomes a director and senior executive, resident in the United States, of Morgan Grenfell Investment Services.

Professor Sir Samuel Frederick Edwards has joined the board of Lucas Industries. Mr. J. J. Righton has retired from the board.

Mr. R. G. Rickard has joined the board of Usher-Walker.

Mr. Victor Strachan has joined the board of Rediffusion as commercial director.

Mr. Nigel D. P. Chamberlayne-Macdonald has been made chairman of Welco Holdings on the death of Mr. Robert S. Landis. Mr. John W. F. Holman has become chief executive and Mr. Gordon Hazzard is now a non-executive director.

The chairman of Blundell-Permease Holdings, Mr. Guy Bassett Smith, is to retire at the annual meeting on March 11. He will be succeeded by Mr. R. L. White.

Mr. David Spillbury has been made financial director of Century Oils, a post previously held by Mr. Alex Greenhalgh, who continues as financial director of Century Oils Group. Mr. Spillbury retains his post as company secretary to Century Oils.

Mr. Duncan S. Gee is now joint managing director of the Ayce Group.

Mr. J. D. Oliver has joined Markon Engineering as director of sales and marketing. Mr. V. A. Lilly has joined as director of development. Mr. W. E. Hemmings becomes director of finance.

Mr. John Kershaw is the new managing director of James W. Cook & Company (Wivenhoe). He succeeds Mr. George Smith, who has retired.

Mr. Neil J. Morrow has been elected as a corporate vice-president by the board of directors of The Singer Company. Mr. Morrow is president of the company's European sewing products division, headquartered in Maidenhead.

Mr. O. N. Dawson and Mr. J. R. Mathias have been made executive directors of F. & C. Management.

Mr. Neil Tasker becomes merchandise director of E. Upton and Son.

Yearly premiums up 16 pc to £1,860m in 1980

The new yearly premium figures for life assurance and annuities announced by the Life Association show an increase in 1980 of 16 per cent to £1,860m, compared with a 17 per cent increase in 1979.

Single premiums decreased slightly from £562m to £558m. New sums assured increased by 17 per cent from £51,000m to £59,900m and new annuities by 11 per cent from £1,510m to £1,768m per annum.

There were quite considerable differences between the results reported by individual life offices but, overall, the industry's new business figures broadly kept up with the rate of inflation experienced over the 12-month period.

Results announced include: Provident Mutual: Provident Mutual strides into the 1980s with a most encouraging performance considering economic conditions.

In 1980, the new annual premium business for Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association increased by 10.7 per cent to £24.4m (from £22.1m) although the single premium business is 3 per cent lower at £9.5m (£9.9m). The 1980 results again confirm the Provident Mutual's position as a leading pension office with new pension and group life annual premiums increased by 12 per cent to £19.5m (£17.4m) and

New Life Business

single premiums by 16 per cent to £7.1m (£6.1m).

Provident Mutual record bonuses: Record bonuses have been announced by Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association, made possible by a sustained period of excellent investment returns. For the majority of company and executive pension schemes, the annual bonus rate has averaged 10.5 per cent compared with 9.0 per cent last year, giving growth rate on pension funds of 13.73 per cent per annum compound. A similar underlying growth is available to self-employed pension policies but bonuses are expressed differently to recognize the flexibility of the pension age under this type of contract.

For the first time, the rate of increase has been increased to 9.40 per cent per annum compound from 8.25 per cent and there is a total bonus of 10 per cent of all bonuses added to age 65.

Royal London Mutual Insurance: Ordinary branch: New annual premiums on policies effected in 1980 amounted to £26.5m compared with £4.57m in 1979. New sums assured totalled £236.14m net against £157.42m net in 1979. Single premiums and annuities for 1980 totalled £224,000 (1979 £235,000). Industrial branch: New annual premiums for 1980 were £2.3m compared with £2.1m in 1979. New sums assured totalled £151.85m net, against £117.32m net in 1979. Special final bonus: The special final bonus has been extended to include a further year of entry with effect from January 1, 1981. The rates of bonus for entry 1980 and later are increased, whilst rates for earlier years of entry remain unchanged.

Sun Life Group: Sun Life Assurance Society Group announces record new business results for 1980 with total new premiums for the group amounting to £74.3m (1979 £68.5m). This comprised annual premiums of £36.1m (£34.4m) and single premiums of £38.2m (£34.1m).

A breakdown of the figures is set out below:

Pensions business: Pensions-related business amounted to new annual premiums of £28.4m (£23.5m) and single premiums of £16.9m (£11.5m). These figures include the following categories of business: Group pensions including managed funds: New annual premiums of £19.0m (£17.2m) and single premiums of £4.2m (£3.5m). Non-group pensions, including executive pensions: New annual premiums of £5.8m (£4.1m) and single premiums of £3.5m (£3.4m). Pensions for the self-employed: New annual premiums of £0.6m (£0.7m) and single premiums of £1.5m (£1.8m).

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Credits	14%
C. Hoare & Co.	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Westminster	14%
Royal Bank	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 12-month rate on £100,000, overdraft £50,000, 12%, overdraft £20,000, 13%.

NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED

NOTICE TO PREFERENCE SHAREHOLDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a dividend of 2.45p per share for the half-year ended 31 December, 1980 will be paid on 22 February 1981 to holders of the Cumulative Preference Shares registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on 30 January, 1981.

By Order of the Board,
E. B. GULLEN, Secretary
London EC2
13 January, 1981

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB. Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

39	21	Armitage & Rhodes	36	—	1.4	3.8	14.8
192	92	Bardon Hill	189	—	9.7	5.1	7.1
87	46	County Cars Pref	46	—	7.6	16.5	—
98	88	Deborah Services	96	—	5.5	5.7	4.8
126	88	Frank Horsell	117	—	7.9	6.3	3.7
110	39	Frederick Parker	59	—	11.0	18.6	2.7
110	74	George Blair	75	—	3.1	4.1	—
110	59	Jackson Group	110	—	6.9	6.3	4.2
124	103	James Burrough	121	—	7.9	6.5	9.9
330	244	Robert Jenkins	330	—	31.3	9.5	—
53	50	Scruttons 'A'	53	—	5.3	10.0	3.8
224	216	Torday Limited	219	—	15.1	6.9	3.7
23	10	Twinkl Ord.	13	—	—	—	—
90	69	Twinkl 15% ULS	78	—	15.0	19.2	—
56	35	Unilock Holdings	37	—	3.0	8.1	3.8
102	81	Walter Alexander	102	—	5.7	5.5	3.6
255	181	W. S. Yeates	253	—	32.1	4.8	4.1

BARLOW RAND

Results have been very satisfactory... our budget for 1981 shows further growth

Extracts from the statement by the Chairman, Mr. A. M. Rosholt.

Last year I anticipated a year of continued growth in 1980 though perhaps not as strong as that of 1979, when group profit after taxation and earnings per share had increased by 50% and 34% respectively. The results for this year have been very satisfactory, with relative increases of 70% and 51%. General business confidence continued to grow and as a result trading conditions in all divisions were more buoyant than anticipated a year ago.

Turnover increased by 51% to R3,459 million. Group profit after tax at R343 million exceeded R300 million for the first time. Attributable earnings improved by 60% to R222 million and represented earnings per share of 179.6 cents. The return on shareholders' funds increased once more, from 22.4% to 26.6% as a result of improved efficiencies. The dividend for the year of 58 cents per share, reflected an increase of 53% over 1979.

The group carries management responsibility for a number of associated gold mining companies, the results of which are not consolidated. If the turnover and profit after taxation of the associated companies were taken into account group turnover would have been R4,407 million and profit after tax R540 million.

Our balance sheet remains strong. Shareholders' funds now total R834 million and interests of outside shareholders have grown to R636 million. The percentage of interest bearing debt to total equity has fallen to 39% and the percentage of total liabilities to equity has remained virtually unchanged.

Acquisitions

The year under review saw the very significant acquisition of a controlling interest in C. G. Smith & Co. Ltd., and its subsidiaries. With effect from 1 October 1980 Barlow Rand has sold its remaining paper interests to C. G. Smith and a scheme of

Profits before tax increased by 63% to R516 million.

reorganisation has been carried out. The outcome is that Barlow Rand now holds 58% in the reconstituted C. G. Smith Group. The initial acquisition of control in C. G. Smith had a considerable effect upon our balance sheet and profit figures although no significant effect this year upon our earnings per share.

Frankfurt Listing

We have over the years raised foreign loans and it was suggested that if we should require finance from European capital markets in the future it would be advantageous to be listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. As a result a consortium led by Commerzbank A.G., and including Deutsche Bank A.G., Dresdner Bank A.G. and Berliner Handels- und Bank Frankfurt Bank, sponsored our Listing in Frankfurt on 19 June 1980.

The South African economy

1980 has been a year of strong economic growth, and business conditions have been very favourable. A consistently high gold price has produced a very healthy balance of payments situation, which in turn has greatly strengthened the country's finances and liquidity. The mining sector has continued to prosper, particularly in coal exports. The country had a good agricultural year. There has been a considerable increase in consumer demand brought about by a mildly stimulatory budget and substantial salary and wage increases

to all sections of the population. Business confidence has improved as the government has taken the first steps in implementing its policy of limiting government sector expenditure and of increasing the private sector share of the economy.

This confidence has been marked by significant new private sector investment as excess manufacturing capacity has been used up. It is currently estimated that the growth in gross domestic product for 1980 will exceed 7%, which is substantially higher than was predicted a year ago.

Prospects

Prospects for our group in the year ahead will to a large extent mirror the national economy. They will also be standing comparison with two very strong performances in 1979 and 1980 in which our earnings per share doubled from 88.6c to 179.6c.

Our order books are satisfactory and business continues to be very good. However, the ferro-alloy and stainless steel manufacturing division, which had an outstanding year in 1980, faces very difficult conditions in the generally depressed state of the world steel industry, and must expect strongly reduced earnings. On balance, our budget for 1981 shows further growth but certainly not at the 1980 rate.

Group confidence is reflected in the heavy capital expenditure programme to which we are committed, which hopefully will help solve the very serious unemployment problem. The industrial division will be spending R288 million over the next three years. The mining division's commitments are for R630 million over the next five years. The R818 million expenditure will be funded from loan facilities already arranged, retained earnings and the recent EKPM rights issue.

We are confident that these capital programmes, our very active diversified base of existing operations and our strong human and financial resources, will ensure continued growth in earnings for the group and increasing dividends for our shareholders.

Group salient features

Year end 30 September	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976
Total assets	2,928.3	1,790.5	1,457.5	1,108.6	812.8
Turnover	3,459.4	2,283.6	1,624.0	1,245.7	1,067.7
Group profit before taxation	516.4	315.7	214.0	170.3	141.2
Group profit after taxation	343.5	201.5	134.2	107.9	90.3
- attributable to ordinary shareholders in Barlow Rand Limited	221.9	138.4	95.0	77.1	72.8
Earnings per share before non-trading items	179.6	118.6	88.6	75.7	71.9
Dividends per ordinary share	58.0	38.0	30.0	26.0	24.0
1 South African Rand = £0.66 approximately					

Barlow Rand Limited is a South African company and the parent of a large group which operates in southern Africa, the United Kingdom, U.S.A. and the continent of Europe. Its business is the management, control and development of the group's mining, manufacturing, distribution, agricultural, property and other interests. The group employs 191,000 people and its shares are listed and quoted on the stock exchanges in Johannesburg, London, Paris, Frankfurt, Brussels, Antwerp and Salisbury.

Copies of the 1980 Annual Report are available from the London Secretaries, Thos. Barlow (Holdings) Limited, 16 Stratford Place, London, W1N 9AF.

Wall Street

[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 12. Dealings End, Jan 23. § Contango Day, Jan 26. Settlement Day, Feb 2
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

— 11 01 11 01 11 01 11 01 —

wailing to advise you the she

SUNMED
435 Fulham Road,
London SW10.

CLIPAK 1

HOLIDAYS FOR THE

... in the
... final.
... of £200?
... our Square
... and February
... ate, Madaba,
... al, Malta.

Land of ...
... temples, des
... game reser
... holidays to

FRANCE
... with a diff
... explore, go

**Best Buy on
the Canaries.**

Send now for
COX & KINC
29 Mary
London
01-200
or 01-200
ABTA

SKI V
LAST MINU

LIGHTS
 ASPGTS
 ES FROM
 \$79
 \$79
 CBS
 CBS
 106
 28 1987
 (s)
 1987

WAPPI	WAPPI
-------	-------

Taste before you buy!
Muscatel 1979. A fine complement your palate, but balanced with a fresh crisp special offer 12 cases 12 bottles Free quantity

W10 (24 hrs.)

MARKSCOP CHOP

1. Offer new from £18 per
2. Offer an of price of only

mond. Surrey
701

**DAYS
PRICES**

1 DAYS	01-38
Grove.	7 days
#2	

COMANES
requires furni
and houses l
for waiting a
phone:
01-348 4

CURTAINS or lo
Patterns brow
Inc. Sanderson

TRAVEL
Now available
Nairobi,
and
worldwide

Model A. r	Model A. r
conditioned.	conditioned.
wood case.	wood case.

RELIABILITY
ravel Parade.
ATOL 8828).

a 7 Europe ?
9 7505/7829.

ut dream' holi-

COLOUR TV's fr.
by our service

PAVAROTTI CO.

[illegible]

Printed and Published by
Limited, 25, Abchurch Lane,
London, E.C. 4, England.
Telephone: 01-4039100

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26